Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-013
Friday
22 January 1993

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-013 *22 January 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

CIS Joint Armed Forces Commander on Nuclear Forces *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 21 Jan]* 1
Kokoshin: START Not in Conflict With 'Optimum Structure' *[IZVESTIYA 12 Jan]* 2
Deputy Andronov Says START Treaty Lacks Specifics *[PRAVDA 16 Jan]* 2

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Russia, Nordic Countries Discuss Barents Sea Cooperation *[IZVESTIYA 16 Jan]* 4
Afghanistan Appeals for UN Aid to Tajik Refugees *[ITAR-TASS]* 4

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

CIS Heads of State, Government Work on Draft Charter 5
Russia Favors Signing *[Moscow Radio]* 5
Yeltsin Says Ukraine Must Sign *[INTERFAX]* 5
Russia Rejects Satellite Agreement *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Yeltsin: Charter 'Top Priority' *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Shushkevich on Document's Importance *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Aspects of Draft Debated *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
High Expectations for Signing *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Interstate Bank Creation Approved *[INTERFAX]* 7
Prime Ministers Approve Draft *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
First Session Ends; Agenda Approved *[Moscow Radio]* 7
Three States Refuse To Sign *[INTERFAX]* 8
Defense Ministers Discuss Changes in Forces Agreement *[INTERFAX]* 8
Council Expresses Optimism *[BELINFORM]* 9
No Disagreements Expected *[Moscow TV]* 9
Grachev on Differences on Forces *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Disagreement on Nuclear Weapons Control *[Moscow TV]* 10
May Omit Strategic Weapons Question *[Radio Rossii]* 10
CIS Nuclear Policy Committee Meets 21 Jan *[INTERFAX]* 11
Strategic Arms Central Issue *[INTERFAX]* 11
Policy Differences Between Republics *[Moscow Radio]* 11
Belarus: Weapons Belong to Russia *[Moscow TV]* 11
Unable To Agree on Forces *[INTERFAX]* 12
Leaders Unanimous in Support for Continuing CIS 12
Ter-Petrosyan for Charter *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Kravchanka for Economic Cooperation *[Minsk Radio]* 12
Chernomyrdin Hopeful *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Kozyrev on Yeltsin's Role *[INTERFAX]* 12
Niyazov Urges Consolidation, Equality *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Kravchuk for Constructive Dialogue *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Uzbekistan Calls CIS 'Necessity' *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Belarusian, Russian Leaders Sign Trade Accords *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Belarus, Uzbekistan Sign Trade, Economic Agreements *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Tajikistan's Rakhmonov Hopeful for CIS Aid at Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
International Movement for Democratic Reforms Warns CIS *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Leaders, Commentator Ponder Prospects for CIS *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 16 Jan]* 14
Leaders Seen Preserving CIS in Own Interests *[IZVESTIYA 22 Jan]* 17
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 22 Jan 18

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Clinton Hoping To Meet Yeltsin 'Very Soon' *[IZVESTIYA 22 Jan]* 20
Rutskoy Sends Congratulatory Message to Gore *[INTERFAX]* 20
Clinton's Foreign Policy Problems Viewed *[KURANTY 20 Jan]* 21
PRAVDA Notes Clinton's 'Less Attractive' Qualities *[21 Jan]* 22
Zhirinovskiy 'Terrorists' To Attack U.S. Forces in Iraq *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Attack on Baghdad Decried as 'Gangsterism' *[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 19 Jan]* 22
U.S. Presence Around Iraq Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Jan]* 23
Intelligence Service Delegation's Visit to U.S. Viewed *[Radio Rossii]* 24
Two Servicemen Killed by Mine in Yugoslavia *[Radio Rossii]* 24
Article Speculates on Primakov's Recent Belgrade Visit *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 20 Jan]* 24
Foreign Ministry Official on Bosnian Serb Decision *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Further on Mongolian President's Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Ochirbat Views Ties With Khasbulatov *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Grachev Ends French Visit, Notes Closer Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Lectures at Military School *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 Jan]* 26
Further on Visit *[Moscow TV]* 27
France Grants Fr1.6 Billion Credit for Grain Purchase *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 19 Jan]* 27
Shokhin: Russia 'Should Not Sign' CIS Charter *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Moscow, Ukraine Fail To Agree on Soviet External Debt *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Romanian CIS Stand *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Yeltsin, Tajik Leader Discuss Cooperation, Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Yeltsin, Hungary's Antall Discuss Relations Over Phone *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
New Black Sea Fleet Commander To Join Navy 24 Jan *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Talks With India Prepare Way for Yeltsin Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Yeltsin Meets Indian Envoy Before Visit to New Delhi *[Moscow TV]* 29
Kunadze: 'Special Status' for India Impossible *[INTERFAX]* 30
Shokhin Signs Several Agreements With Turkmenistan *[INTERFAX]* 30
West's Concern Over Weapons Ties With Iran Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 jan]* 30
World Bank To Give Government $2 Billion Credit *[INTERFAX]* 31
Kozyrev Appears on New TV Program's First Broadcast *[Moscow TV]* 31

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Signs Provision on Federal Information Center *[INTERFAX]* 35
Parliament Accepts Draft on Information Center in Principle *[INTERFAX]* 35
Yeltsin Decree on State Bodies To Protect Citizens' Rights *[INTERFAX]* 35
Meeting Between Yeltsin, Tatarstan President Begins *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Disputed Articles Omitted From Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 36

Economic & Agricultural Issues

Economics Ministry Drafts Stabilization Measures *[INTERFAX]* 36
More on Government Presidium's 20 Jan Session *[IZVESTIYA 21 Jan]* 37
Chernomyrdin Decree on Agricultural Crisis Anticipated *[IZVESTIYA 21 Jan]* 37
Fedorov, Chubays Speak on Inflation, Privatization *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 21 Jan]* 38
Chubays Speaks on Privatization Prospects *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 21 Jan]* 38

Media Issues

Yeltsin Confirms Russian Broadcasting's All-State Character *[Radio Rossii]* 39
Chernomyrdin Signs Decree on Information Resources *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Jan]* 39
Ostankino Chief Says Yeltsin Misled, Wants Edict Repealed *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 22 Jan]* ... 40

Military Issues

80 Nuclear Submarines Decommissioned *[ITAR-TASS]* 40

Supreme Soviet

MP's Tell Serbia's Milosevic Sanctions Mistake *[Moscow TV]* 41
Security Stepped Up at Parliament Building *[Moscow Radio]* 41
Kozyrev Assailed for Acting 'Independent' of Parliament *[INTERFAX]* 41
Khasbulatov Reacts to Poltaranin Interview in L'UNITA *[Moscow TV]* 41
Poltoranin Defends Information Center, Burbulis *[INTERFAX]* 43
Further on Information Center *[Moscow Radio]* 43
Parliament Discusses Chemical Weapons Convention *[INTERFAX]* 45
Supreme Soviet Debates Publications; Agenda Outlined *[Radio Rossii]* 46
Parliamentary Scrutiny of Forces Budget Eyed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 Jan]* 46
Supreme Soviet Official Discusses Budget Problems *[Russian TV]* 48
Yeltsin's 1993 Budget Message Criticized at Hearings *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 Jan]* 49
Presidium's 18 Jan Session Reported *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 18 Jan]* 50
'Hiatus' in Examining Military Laws Deplored *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 Jan]* 50
Decree on 11 April Referendum Published *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Jan]* 51
Closed Hearings Held on Crimean Problem *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Jan]* 52

Regional Affairs

Chechen State of Emergency Extended Until 10 Feb *[Radio Rossii]* 52
Dudayev Calls For Early Talks With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Chechen Parliament, President Split Over Russian Relations *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Dudayev Unhappy With Russian-Chechen Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Dudayev Supports Equal Rights With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Results of Groznyy Talks Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 19 Jan]* 54
Ingush Congress Refuses Chechnya Merger *[INTERFAX]* 55
Yeltsin Signs Decree To Restore Order in Stavropol *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Elections Not Permitted During N. Caucasus Crisis *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Roundtable on North Caucasus Opens *[INTERFAX]* 56
Established 'To Consolidate Forces' *[INTERFAX]* 56
Further on Roundtable *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 16 Jan]* 56
N. Caucasian Democratic Congress Formed in Stavropol *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Shakhray Favors Self-Regulation in N. Caucasus *[INTERFAX]* 57
Interviewed on New Council *[Moscow TV]* 57
Speaker of N. Ossetian Parliament Fears Renewed Clashes *[INTERFAX]* 58
Shakhray Interviewed on Work in N. Ossetia *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 20 Jan]* 58
S. Ossetia Concerned Over Withdrawal of Peacekeepers *[INTERFAX]* 59
Peacekeeping Forces To Remain *[ITAR-TASS]* 59
South Ossetia Against Withdrawal *[ITAR-TASS]* 59
Moscow Consideration Noted *[INTERFAX]* 59
Agreement To Convene Ingush-N. Ossetia Commission *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Further on Ingush-Ossetian Agreement *[Radio Rossii]* 60
Calm Reported in North Ossetia, Ingushetia *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Situation Worsens *[INTERFAX]* 60
Peacekeeping Forces in Control *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
Shooting Reported in North Ossetia *[ITAR-TASS]* 61

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Black Sea Fleet Forces Mistakenly Attack Ukrainian Post *[ITAR-TASS]* 62
Incident Termed 'Provocation' *[INTERFAX]* 62
Black Sea Fleet Officers Demand Solution to Problems *[INTERFAX]* 62
Plyushch Writes Khasbulatov on Sevastopol Issue *[Kiev International]* 62
Servicemen Dismissed From Fleet for Loyalty Oaths *[Kiev International]* 62
Kravchuk Telegram To Clinton Urges 'Fruitful' Dialogue *[Kiev TV]* 63
Ukraine Will Pay Foreign Debt; Must Receive Assets *[Kiev TV]* 63
Liberal Party Statement on 22 Jan Minsk Summit *[Kiev International]* 63
Kuchma Asks Kohl to Hurry Implementation of Agreements *[ITAR-TASS]* 63

National Affairs

Supreme Council Holds Sixth Session 20-21 Jan 64
Kuchma Reports on Economy, CIS *[Kiev International]* 64
Further Kuchma Comments *[Moscow International]* 64
Nationalists 'Sabotaging' Session *[ITAR-TASS]* 64
Socioeconomic 'Crisis' Discussed *[INTERFAX]* 65
'Problems' at Session Reported *[Kiev International]* 65
Crimean Supreme Council Chairman Against Border Changes *[Kiev International]* 65
Communists 'Noticeably' Increase Activity in Crimea *[Kiev TV]* 65
Politician Asserts Missiles Still Aimed at U.S., West *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 19 Jan]* 66
Communist Deputies Oppose Defense Minister, President *[Kiev International]* 66
Vice Premier Says 'Ukraine Is A Sinking Ship' *[INTERFAX]* 66

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Stankevich Sees Warsaw Visit as Productive, Positive *[ITAR-TASS]* 67
Military Unit in Brest To Be Disbanded *[BELINFORM]* 67
Foreign Minister on Cooperation, Agreements With China *[BELINFORM]* 67
Chernobyl Committee Adopts Budget, Priorities *[BELINFORM]* 67
Border Guards Faced Increasing Problems in 1992 *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 14 Jan]* 68
National Front Seym Holds Session, Discusses Strategy *[BELINFORM]* 68

Moldova

Peacekeeping Vehicle Comes Under Fire in Bendery *[INTERFAX]* 68
Further on Snegur's Referendum Proposal *[IZVESTIYA 21 Jan]* 68
Deputy Factions Boycott *[INTERFAX]* 69
Independence Divides Parliament *[ITAR-TASS]* 69
Poll Reveals Majority Rejects Joining CIS, Romania *[Bucharest Radio]* 70
Independence Seen as Leading to Integration With CIS *[Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA 15 Jan]* . 70
Political Unrest Undermines Dniester's Integrity *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 16 Jan]* 71

CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan

Afghan Mercenaries Fight for Anti-Government Forces *[Moscow International]* 72
Officials Give News Conference *[INTERFAX]* 72
Official on Afghan Training Sites *[INTERFAX]* 72
Mojahedin Said Helping Opposition *[Dushanbe Radio]* 72
Call-Up for 'Active Service' in Armed Forces *[IZVESTIYA 20 Jan]* 73
Troops Support 'Clean Up' To Help Russian-Speaking Citizens *[INTERFAX]* 73
Russian, Tajik Forces in Border Security Operations *[IZVESTIYA 15 Jan]* 73
People's Front Leader Denies Ethnic Cleansing Charges *[ITAR-TASS]* 74
Deputy Parliament Head Discusses National Reconciliation *[INTERFAX]* 74

Turkmenistan

Deputy Prime Minister Rejects Draft CIS Charter *[INTERFAX]* 74

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Fighting Continues in Nagorno-Karabakh, Yerevan 76
Stepanakert Shelled *[Yerevan Radio]* 76
Explosion at Yerevan Airport *[SNARK]* 76
Three Azerbaijani Planes Hit *[SNARK]* 76

Attack on Lachin Corridor *[SNARK]* 76
Fall of Villages Denied *[Yerevan International]* 77
'Wide-Scale' Azerbaijani Offensive *[INTERFAX]* 77
Azerbaijanis 'Pushed Back' at Lachin *[SNARK]* 77
Update on 20 Jan Fighting *[Yerevan Radio]* 77
Foreign Ministry Protests Airspace Violation *[Yerevan Radio]* 78
President Praises Visit, Talks With Kazakhstan *[Yerevan International]* 78

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Reports Villages 'Liberated' in Karabakh *[ASSA-IRADA]* 79
Plane Attacks Nagorno-Karabakh Hospital *[ITAR-TASS]* 79
'Violent' Fighting Reported in North, South Karabakh *[TURAN]* 79
Russia, Armenia Accused of Preparing for Spring Offensive *[Baku TV]* 79
Russian Troop Withdrawal Impeded by Blockades *[ITAR-TASS]* 80
President Sets Up Committee on Missing People, Hostages *[Moscow Radio]* 80
Nakhichevan Leader Congratulates Clinton, Appeals for Aid *[Baku Radio]* 80
Prime Minister Hopeful for Economic Improvement *[INTERFAX]* 80
Decree Issued To Regulate Payment of Russian, Other Debts *[ITAR-TASS]* 81
Delegation Departs for Germany for Business, Official Talks *[Baku Radio]* 81
Agreement Reached With Iran on Delivery of Fuel, Flour *[SNARK]* 81
Azerbaijan National Unity Party Registers *[Baku Radio]* 81

Georgia

Representatives Not To Attend Minsk Summit *[INTERFAX]* 81
Shevardnadze Calls For Peacekeeping Forces for Iraq *[ITAR-TASS]* 81
Negotiations With Russia To Begin 22 Jan in Tbilisi *[INTERFAX]* 82
Delegation Arrives *[ITAR-TASS]* 82
Russian Servicemen Ask Shevardnadze To Prevent Attacks *[INTERFAX]* 82
Russian Humanitarian Flights to Tkvarcheli Approved *[ITAR-TASS]* 82
Tblisi Urges Russian Troop Withdrawal From South Ossetia *[INTERFAX]* 83
Kitovani on Difficulty of Solving Abkhaz Conflict *[ITAR-TASS]* 83
Pilots, Passengers of Downed Helicopter Alive in Sukhumi *[INTERFAX]* 83
Officials Deny Downing Helicopter *[ITAR-TASS]* 83
Passengers' Release Demanded *[INTERFAX]* 84
Clashes With Abkhazians Continue Near Sukhumi *[INTERFAX]* 84
Ministry Claims Abkhazians Threatening To Kill Villagers *[INTERFAX]* 85
Abkhazian Parliament Denies Militants Seized 800 Hostages *[ITAR-TASS]* 85
Abkhazians Accused of Human Rights Violations *[INTERFAX]* 85
'Stream of Peace' Movement to Operate in Conflict Zone *[IZVESTIYA 14 Jan]* 85
UN Delegation Arrives To Determine Aid Needed *[Moscow International]* 86
Defense Ministry Refutes NDP Leaders' Coup Accusations *[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 14 Jan]* 86
Shevardnadze Reports on Delegation's Visit to Iran *[Moscow Radio]* 86
Relations, Cooperation Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 21 Jan]* 86
To Exchange Fertilizer for Gas *[INTERFAX]* 87

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Luik on 'Hardened' Russian Position at Military Talks *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 88
Russian-Estonian Talks End Without Results *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 Jan]* 88
Move for Autonomy for Russians Fails To Gain Support *[ITAR-TASS]* 88
'Democratic Russia' Urges Protection of Russians' Rights *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 89
Communications Agreement Concluded With Russia *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 89
Council of Europe Committee Meets in Tallinn *[BALTFAX]* 89
State Assembly Ratifies Agreement With EC *[BALTFAX]* 89
Government Wants To Join Chemical Weapons Production Ban *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 89
Foreign Minister Addresses Meeting of Ambassadors *[BALTFAX]* 90

National Budget for 1993 3.67 Billion Kroons *[ETA NEWS RELEASE]* 90

Latvia

Foreign Ministry Terms Russian Statement 'Threat' *[LETA]* 90
Russian Troop Withdrawal Discussed in Jurmala *[Riga Radio]* 91
1994 'Most Realistic' Time for Withdrawal *[BALTFAX]* 91
Defense Minister Jundzis Comments *[Riga Radio]* 92
Talks Fail To Resolve Issues *[Riga Radio]* 92
Delegation Leader Dinevics Comments *[Riga Radio]* 92
No Agreement Reached *[BALTFAX]* 92
Further on Talks *[Moscow Radio]* 93
Ministry of Defense Disputes Russian Data on Troops *[Riga Radio]* 93
Military Statistics Differ *[LETA]* 94
Paper Cites Figures of Russian Military Presence *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 Jan]* 94
Russian Command Censures Latvian Defense Ministry Release *[BALTFAX]* 94
Defense Minister Issues Statement on Russian Brigade *[Riga Radio]* 94
Defense Ministry Protests Russian Infantry Brigade *[BNS]* 94
Russian Army Refuses Entrance to Latvian Officials *[Riga International]* 95
Russian Training Ground Causes 'Considerable Damage' *[LETA]* 95
Russian Intelligence Services Said Still Operating *[BNS]* 95
Gorbunovs Invited to Clinton Celebration; Unable To Attend *[LETA]* 95
Interior Ministry Signs Agreement With Azerbaijan *[BALTFAX]* 95
Finance Minister Submits Resignation *[BALTFAX]* 96
Social Democratic Labor Party Holds Congress *[LETA]* 96

Lithuania

Brazauskas Congratulates President Clinton *[Vilnius Radio]* 96
Brazauskas Meets U.S. Military Delegation *[ITAR-TASS]* 96
Brazauskas Receives National Guard Official *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 96
Brazauskas Comments on 1993 Budget *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 97
Holds News Conference 22 Jan *[Vilnius Radio]* 97
Foreign Minister Accuses Russia of 'Unacceptable Demands' *[BALTFAX]* 97
Russian Troop Withdrawal 'Running to Schedule' *[Russian TV]* 98
Data Given on Withdrawal of Russian Army *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 98
Stankevicus on Russian Military Withdrawal Demands *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 98
UN Official on Russian Troop Withdrawal *[Vilnius Radio]* 98
Gylys Says Russian Army Withdrawal Talks 'Not Easy' *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 99
Official Says Russians Pull Out 61 of Total 288 Units *[BALTFAX]* 99
Landsbergis Press Conference on Russian Ministry Stance *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 99
'Centras' Movement Condemns Statement by Russian President *[BALTFAX]* 100
Transportation Agreement Signed With Russia *[BNS]* 100
Landsbergis on Russian Attitude Toward Vilnius *[BALTFAX]* 100
Gylys Interviewed on Future of Foreign Policy *[Vilnius Radio]* 100

CIS Joint Armed Forces Commander on Nuclear Forces

MK2101163793 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 2

[Interview with Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, by Vadim Solovyev on 20 January under "Carte Blanche" rubric; place not given: "CIS Joint Armed Forces Commander in Chief Gathers Together 'Nuclear Club.' Differences Between Russia and Ukraine Remain"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] A session of the Commonwealth "nuclear club" will be held 21 January in Minsk within the framework of the CIS Council of Defense Ministers. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's military observer, Vadim Solovyev, met with Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, the day before.

[Shaposhnikov] When speaking about the "nuclear club" of nuclear states and the CIS one must clarify that Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine cannot be described as nuclear states, but states on whose territory nuclear weapons are situated. Russia is a nuclear state and has inherited that status from the USSR and will retain it in accordance with agreements adopted by the CIS.

The main purpose of the CIS defense ministers' meeting this time is to finally determine their position on the Strategic Nuclear Forces. The point is that the documents, which were signed at summit level within the CIS before all the Commonwealth states decided to set up their own armies, stipulate that the Strategic Forces comprise the Strategic Rocket forces, the Navy, the Air Forces, Military Transport Aviation, the Airborne Troops, and other components. Once the former USSR's Armed Forces had been divided up the CIS states formed their own ground forces, naval forces, air defense, air force, and so on. Naturally, the composition of the Strategic Forces must be brought into line with the actual state of affairs. I intend to raise the question that it is primarily the Strategic Nuclear Forces and the units providing direct support for them that should be ranked among the Strategic Nuclear Forces. The Commonwealth defense ministers, above all those who have nuclear weapons on their territory, agree with this idea.

The question of the composition of the Strategic Forces is still not entirely clear given the new, present-day realities within the Commonwealth. But there is a policy to which it is, in my view, necessary to adhere. We must above all proceed from the premise that the leaders of the independent states stated on forming the Commonwealth that they favor a single military-strategic area, joint command, and centralized control over nuclear weapons. This was subsequently enshrined in the Alma-Ata (21 December 1991) and Minsk (30 December 1991) agreements. These stipulate that nuclear arms ensure the security of all parties to the Commonwealth and that the CIS states will coordinate their nuclear policy. A mechanism was worked out for decisions to be adopted regarding the use or nonuse of nuclear weapons with the participation of the four states' leaders and the commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. Corresponding structures were set up in accordance with these agreements, in particular, to command the strategic forces and coordinate nuclear policy.

But the future of the nuclear weapons stationed on the territory of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine was not clear enough owing to the lack of certainty regarding the state to which these weapons belong. None of the documents hitherto adopted by the CIS has determined this point.

An important step toward resolving this problem was the signing of the Lisbon Protocol to the START Treaty by the four states and the United States, whereby Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan became parties to the Treaty on the Reduction of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I) and at the same time pledged to subscribe to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as nuclear-free states. I must stress that under the Lisbon Protocol the words in the START Treaty "national territory" mean the sum total of the territories of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine. Of course, this presupposes the existence of joint command of the Strategic Forces. What is more the Lisbon Protocol envisages that Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine will conclude bilateral treaties with Russia on all issues pertaining to strategic offensive arms and to the procedure for the practical implementation of the Lisbon Protocol. Talks on these matters have already begun. They are proceeding with a fair amount of difficulty.

The key differences in the sides' positions can be briefly set out as follows.

Ukraine has officially stated its commitment to nuclear-free status, but has at the same time decided to set up its own Nuclear Weapons Administrative Command Center on its territory and has adopted a decision regarding ownership rights in respect of these weapons. Russia emphasizes Russian state ownership of the nuclear weapons stemming from the international treaties and agreements adopted by the CIS. Belarus is in agreement and assigns the High Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces operational command of the Strategic Nuclear Forces stationed on its territory until they are completely removed. Kazakhstan's stance is also close to that.

Thus, none of the CIS states is restricting the rights and duties of the High Command insofar as operational control of the Strategic Nuclear Forces is concerned. But this is the main issue today because Belarus has effectively renounced its nuclear status and Kazakhstan has already ratified the START I Treaty and the Lisbon Protocol, yet on Ukrainian territory it looks as though there are no adequate mechanisms to enable me as commander of the Strategic Nuclear Forces to exercise that command and organize and supervise inspection and maintenance work, measures to ensure nuclear safety, technical supervision, and so on.

In view of the fact that, according to the spirit and letter of the Lisbon Protocol, all nuclear weapons in what was the

USSR are Russian, naturally Russian structures should perform the entire material and technical side of these functions.

We are today close to reaching a constructive solution to this issue. The Russian president has stated Russia's readiness, prior to Ukraine's ratification of the START I Treaty and the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty, to provide Ukraine with guarantees of its security which will come into force once Ukraine has ratified these documents. For safety purposes Ukraine and Russia have agreed that Russia will carry out material and technical support functions and will effect guaranteed and inventor's supervision of the operation of the missile complexes [garantiyniy i avtorskiy nadzor za ekspluatatsiey raketnykh kompleksov so storony Rossii]. This is precisely what is needed, because neither Ukraine, Belarus, nor Kazakhstan has the resources to perform this work. The Russian and Ukrainian Governments have been tasked with drafting agreements within a month to ensure the implementation of these accords.

Of equal importance is the fact that the Russian and Ukrainian presidents have instructed their governments to immediately begin talks on settling all matters pertaining to the implementation of the START treaties, including those pertaining to the conditions for the dismantling, transportation, and destruction of the nuclear munitions and missile complex elements stationed in Ukraine (including the processing of the nuclear components and their subsequent use as fuel for nuclear electric power stations).

Another tough problem to be examined at the meeting in Minsk concerns measures aimed at ensuring that the Collective Security Treaty signed in Tashkent 15 May comes into effect. Under this treaty the six CIS states pledged to develop collective defense. In effect, this presupposes a qualitatively new level of cooperation, one that ensures the maximum return with minimum expenditure and guarantees legal and social protection for servicemen coordinated within the treaty framework. Regrettably, the treaty has not so far been ratified by all the states. I want to raise this question with the heads of state.

Problems associated with the use of peacekeeping forces in various regions will also be discussed. At present only Russian troops are acting as peacekeepers. Some people have tried to use that to insinuate that Russia is taking "imperial" steps. That is totally incorrect and unjust. However, it is very important to ensure joint participation in peacekeeping actions in practice. The "hot spots" represent a problem for us all. And we must overcome them together.

Kokoshin: START Not in Conflict With 'Optimum Structure'

PM2001130593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jan 93 Moscow Edition p 2

[INTERFAX report on interview with First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin; place and date not given: "Andrey Kokoshin: This Treaty Does Not Conflict With the Optimum Structure for Russia's Nuclear Deterrent Forces"]

[Text] The START II Treaty does not conflict with the optimum structure of Russia's nuclear deterrent forces, Russian Federation First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin has told INTERFAX.

He explained that as a result of the agreement with the Americans, on the one hand Russia is losing its most powerful weapons—the SS-18 heavy missiles, which were the main part of its strategic forces. On the other hand, Russia is getting rid of a dangerous magnet for an enemy preemptive strike. "With two warheads against a silo housing 10 of our warheads on these heavy missiles, the enemy could knock them out during a preemptive strike," A. Kokoshin explained. "This is thought to be advantageous. But if both we and the other side have single-warhead missiles, a preemptive strike becomes pointless."

Speaking of problems in forming the grouping of Russia's strategic deterrent forces, Kokoshin believes that aviation will find itself in the most difficult situation out of the three components of these forces. "We probably will not have the funds to choose the ceilings permitted under START II; strategic aviation is becoming very expensive. While the Americans have a great many aircraft, they too have recently cut their program for the development of strategic aviation."

A. Kokoshin also noted that while ground-based missiles were being created and developed, an important deterrent emereged in the naval component of strategic nuclear forces—long-range ballistic missiles. These can fire from their bases without approaching the shore or entering the zone of enemy antisubmarine defenses.

As for economic aspects of the reduction of strategic arms, Kokoshin is not inclined to expect "colossal savings." "Overall, during the first few years spending on disarmament will be considerable and the savings from reductions will begin to appear only later, when the maintenance of smaller strategic forces will require less expenditure. At the same time extra funds will be spent on modernization and on creating the scientific and technical groundwork."

Deputy Andronov Says START Treaty Lacks Specifics

PM1901134793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jan 93 pp 1, 3

[Aleksandr Shinkin report incorporating comments by People's Deputy Iona Andronov: "They Have Capitulated Without Firing a Shot"]

[Text] The treaty between Russia and the United States on further reducing and limiting strategic offensive weapons (START II), which was signed 3 January by Boris Yeltsin and George Bush, is the subject of lively discussion in the mass media. The idea has been foisted on public opinion that it has been a blessing for Russia and the whole world. However, People's Deputy Iona Andronov believes that,

on the contrary, it is a historic act of nuclear missile capitulation by Russia in peacetime. He has the following comments to make on the conclusion of this treaty:

Right now a lot of things are being said about this event. And for some reason everyone prefers not to go into the details. This is not fortuitous. Because until now all the documents have been kept strictly secret. There is only one copy in parliament, which I managed to get out of the Foreign Ministry only with difficulty.

At this point a whole detective story began. When I saw that the memorandum to the treaty, which by its very nature should flesh out the general provisions of the main treaty, contained nothing but gaps where there should have been specific figures, I thought someone was pulling my leg. Once again I held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Berdennikov's apparatus and requested that the Russian parliament be given the genuine documents, not this forgery. I got evasive answers.

I turned to Anatoliy Adamishin, first deputy director of this department. He agreed with me and said: "Outrageous!" However, he soon called me and reported that the Foreign Ministry is hiding nothing from me or from parliament. The documents were signed in precisely this form. And the memorandum with the gaps in it, he says, forms part of our treaty agreement with the United States. The gaps will be filled in as the treaty is implemented.

I am quite frankly at a loss for words and do not even know quite how to describe this act. We must suppose that the authors of this document consider the members of the Supreme Soviet to be complete idiots who would approve even a blank sheet of paper. But there can be absolutely no question of any ratification. This is madness. If not a clinical case of insanity, then simply an instance of a president deceiving his people. I personally know of no other such instances in the practice of concluding international treaties.

But it is not just the issue of the gaps in the memorandum. Let us take a look at the essence of START II. What does it give Russia?

Under the decisions that have been adopted, all ground-based ICBM's carrying several warheads are being destroyed and submarine-launched missiles are being kept. For us, ground-based missiles constitute some 65 percent of our nuclear weapons, whereas in the case of the United States the figure is 23 percent. On the other hand, about 20 percent of our missiles are launched from submarines whereas the figure is over 55 percent in the case of the United States. It is clear who is going to disarm.

But the subsequent arithmetic is no less interesting. The United States has 18 Trident-type submarines. They carry 24 missiles with four warheads each. So it is not difficult to tot up the total number of warheads—1,728. This is exactly the weapons ceiling envisaged for each side in the treaty. But we have six submarines of this class. And another seven which are considerably inferior to them in performance terms. Even to a nonmilitary strategist it is clear that the terms of the treaty have been successfully tailored to the size of the U.S. arsenal.

Moreover, in the opinion of military specialists, only 20 percent of our submarines are currently battleworthy. We have no naval bases in the Pacific Ocean and no submarine detection systems. Whereas the United States has all of these things. And therefore their submarines can calmly carry out alert duty off our shores and cruise around the entire world.

It is clear that in its present economic situation, Russia will be unable to catch up with and equal the combat resources of the United States. So the treaty has not just disarmed us, but also imposed new and excessive weapons expenditure.

The United States is not going to attack Russia, of course, it is only going to talk to us like a master to a servant. And if we are disobedient—well, we might get roughed up a bit, like Iraq for example.

Please understand that I am not a black hawk. I am in favor of disarmament. Only not to the detriment of Russia. Disarmament should take place on mutually advantageous terms. I believe that work on the treaty should continue. And if we are talking about the destruction of multiple warheads, let us destroy them all in both the United States and Russia. But our country should not be brought to its knees.

Russia, Nordic Countries Discuss Barents Sea Cooperation

PM1901143593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jan 93 p 3

[Maksim Gan article: "Nordic Countries and Russia Have Founded Barents Sea Cooperation Council"]

[Text] Kirkenes, Moscow—The one-day conference of foreign ministers from the Nordic countries and Russia in the Norwegian town of Kirkenes not only opened up new opportunities for the stabilization and development of the economy of the northern regions but also confirmed that the prospects for cooperation in the Barents Sea arouse tremendous interest throughout the world and that the urgent problems can only be resolved by joint efforts.

On 11 January Russia, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Finland, and Denmark set up the Council of the Barents Sea/Euroarctic Region, whose main tasks are to lay the foundation for and coordinate economic cooperation, environmental protection, and the extraction of minerals; to create an infrastructure; and to protect the rights of the indigenous population. The declaration on cooperation was also signed by representatives of the EC, who noted that the EC intends to take an active part in developing the region. Representatives of the United States, Japan, and Canada, which have been showing increased interest in the northern sea route from the Barents Sea to the Pacific, attended the conference as observers.

"We are inviting into the new organization everyone interested in cooperation in the Barents Sea region and are not limiting the range of participants. Especially since the development of the region will cost a vast sum of money," Norwegian Foreign Minister T. Stoltenberg told your IZVESTIYA correspondent. The council will hold sessions at foreign minister level once a year and, on the suggestion of the head of Finland's foreign policy department, a group of experts will study problems of nuclear safety in the region of the northern sea route as well.

The creation of a region of economic cooperation, by all accounts, is particularly in the interests of Norway and Russia, which will play the main roles if only because the bulk of the stocks of oil and gas in the Barents Sea belongs to them. But Norway does not have sufficient means of its own to develop the resources and make full use of the region's potential, while Russia simply does not have the means at the present moment. But the participation of other European states and international organizations will help to stabilize the economic situation in northern Norway and resolve many of the problems faced by Murmansk and Arkhangelsk Oblasts. The governors of the northern counties of Norway, Sweden, and Finland and Russia's northern oblasts have created their own regional council in Kirkenes and intend to invite Karelia to take part in cooperation.

The European partners feel special misgivings over the ecological situation in the northern regions and in the area of the nuclear test range at Novaya Zemlya as well as over the operational safety of the Kola nuclear power station. Andrey Kozyrev, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry, told journalists at the end of the meeting that Russia, which initiated the moratorium on nuclear tests supported by France and the United States, will be the "last to repudiate it." However, the problems posed by Russian processing enterprises polluting the environment have still not been resolved. Although, in the opinion of Ye. Komarov, head of the Murmansk Oblast Administration, harmful discharges onto Russian territory from Norwegian industrial enterprises are considerably greater than those from the Russian side.

Nevertheless, the main obstacles to the development of extensive cooperation in the region within the framework of the new organization are the problem of the delimitation of the continental shelf, which is rich in natural resources, and the location of the demarcation line in the Barents Sea. Talks on this question have been going on between Norway and Russia for around 20 years now. But only Russia and Norway can define the precise maritime borders, T. Stoltenberg stressed. In the words of A. Kozyrev, the demarcation line should be a line for the rapprochement of the two countries, and the legal uncertainty is contrary to the normal development of relations.

The heads of the foreign policy departments gave an assurance meanwhile that most of the disagreements in the territorial dispute have already been surmounted and there is only "one-fourth of the way" still left to go. In any event the earliest solution of the question now is not only in the interests of Russia and Norway but also of the other states which have joined or intend to join the Barents Council.

Afghanistan Appeals for UN Aid to Tajik Refugees

LD1901100193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0843 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations January 19 TASS—The Government of Afghanistan called on the United Nations organisation to give urgent aid to Tajik refugees, according to a note from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic State of Afghanistan at the United Nations.

"In view of tragic events in the Republic of Tajikistan in recent weeks, there was a mass exodus of about 90,000 citizens from that country. They found refuge in Afghanistan and now live in arduous conditions," points out the note which was circulated as an official document of the U.N. General Assembly at the U.N. headquarters on Monday [18 January].

Afghanistan is in an extremely difficult financial and economic position and is unable to render elementary aid to the refugees.

In view of this, the Afghan Government requests the U.N. to help Tajik refugees and provide them primarily with food, clothes and medicines.

CIS Heads of State, Government Work on Draft Charter

Russia Favors Signing

LD2101211893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1420 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] [Announcer] It seems that almost all our news items today are in some way connected with the latest meeting of the leaders of the countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States, which opens tomorrow in Minsk. Here is one more item on the subject. Despite thorough preparatory work, statements by some politicians in recent days have given grounds to suppose that the fate of the Commonwealth is not so obvious after all. Our correspondent Aleksandr Korshunov talks on this topic to a participant in the Minsk meeting—Leonid Ivashov, secretary of the High Command of the CIS Armed Forces.

[Begin recording] [Korshunov] Leonid Grigoriyevich, beginning, I think, almost from the very first meetings of CIS leaders, there have been claims that the CIS structure will not be long-lived, that it is on the verge of ceasing to exist. However, the most recent meetings would seem to have refuted such claims. Even so, the situation does not permit complete optimism. What might be the consequences if the CIS were to disappear for the territory that used to be the Soviet Union in the event of the current participants in the CIS not signing documents on the further existence of this structure?

[Ivashov] Well, first I would like to point out that the draft charter will bring the problems of the CIS to a head. In the event of its not being signed by some of the Commonwealth members, they will automatically become observers of the Commonwealth, as it were. Then, the bases for mutual relations will be decided at a rather different level, that of bilateral relations, maybe of multilateral relations, but such close multilateral cooperation will, no doubt, be complicated.

[Korshunov] When people talk of a possible danger for the CIS or the probability of a particular state not signing the CIS Charter, Russia seems (?to be above) suspicion. Is there any possibility or danger that Russia, too, might not sign such a document?

[Ivashov] At all the meetings, whether of experts, ministers of foreign affairs, deputy ministers of foreign affairs [words indistinct] in Minsk, Russia has been in favor of signing and has merely made constructive contributions to drawing up a draft that would suit everyone. If something quite extraordinary happens and Russia does not sign the CIS Charter, the consequences could, to be blunt, be disastrous. And, in such circumstances, the situation for Russia would be most unfavorable. It would be cut off from close cooperation with the Central Asian region, and bearing in mind that Russia is a Eurasian state and that the greater part of its territory is in fact in Asia, the priority trend of cooperation in the military and in other spheres must be in this region and, all the more so, when the leaders of these states are preparing for closer cooperation and are ready for profound integration. It is not fortuitous that of the six states that signed the treaty on collective security in Tashkent, four of them were the states of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. Thus, it is not in Russia's interest not to sign the Commonwealth Charter. [end recording]

Yeltsin Says Ukraine Must Sign

OW2201112793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1112 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin told journalists before flying off to the Belarusian capital Minsk on Friday [22 January] that it was necessary to sign a CIS Charter at the Minsk summit, and all the countries but Ukraine were prepared to do so. However he noted that "to sign the CIS Charter without Ukraine would be undesirable."

In Mr. Yeltsin's words, participants at the the summit are in for hard work and will have to make some hard decisions. He said there would be three main issues on the summit's agenda. The first one concerns the signing of the Charter. The President emphasized that the alliance of five Central Asian states should be prevented from sudden secession.

Mr. Yeltsin regards nuclear arms as the second issue to settle with Ukraine and Kazakhstan. As for Belarus, an agreement with it has already been reached. He wished the Parliaments of Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus would ratify the START-1 Treaty.

The third "very hard" issue in Mr. Yeltsin's view is that of the combined CIS armed forces, the status of which, in his words, is declining. The President urged reaching final agreement on these forces.

He said he was going to focus on the situation in Tajikistan in Minsk. In his opinion, to stop the bloodshed in that republic, Russia's 201 division should be backed up by peace-keeping troops from other CIS states.

Russia Rejects Satellite Agreement

LD2101141793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1324 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Misnk, 21 Jan—According to preliminary information, the Council of CIS Defense Ministers has adopted positive decisions on all items of the agenda with the exception of the draft agreement on the use of the military satellite communications system. The draft was rejected by the Russian delegation which believes that the formation of a package of agreements on the military and space is already complete and that the issue of communications should be resolved on the basis of bilateral inter-state agreements.

The sitting of the Council of Defense Ministers with all members present is over. Discussion are under way at the nuclear policy committee with the participation of the

Commander in Chief of the CIS joint air force, and ministers of defense from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.

Yeltsin: Charter 'Top Priority'

LD2201070593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0684 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krasulin]

[Text] Moscow January 22 (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin flew to Minsk on Friday to attend a CIS summit meeting opening in the Belarussian capital today.

Meeting journalists before his departure at Moscow's airport, Yeltsin said "intensive and hard work" was in store in Minsk.

The president views the adoption of the CIS charter as a top priority task. "We must not allow the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan to break away. In principle, all states are ready to sign this document except Ukraine. It is necessary to reach an agreement and sign it," Yeltsin said.

Problem number two is nuclear weapons, Yeltsin continued. "It is necessary to reach agreement with Ukraine and Kazakhstan on this issue. It is vital that the START-1 Treaty is ratified and implemented. We have already reached an agreement on these weapons with Belarus," the president said.

There is yet another problem to be resolved in Minsk—the CIS Combined Armed Forces, Yeltsin said, adding that their status has slightly decreased lately.

"I will also raise a question about Tajikistan. It is necessary to stop the bloodshed there. Peace-keeping forces of other CIS states should join our 201st Division to participate in restoring peace in the republic," Yeltsin said.

Shushkevich on Document's Importance

LD2201122293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1116 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By special correspondents of BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 22 Jan—Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich, who is chairing the CIS summit in Minsk, thinks that "a very important document will be signed today, which may be equivalent to a charter of the CIS."

Commenting on disagreements among the participants of the meeting with regard to the CIS charter, he told correspondents of BELINFORM and ITAR-TASS: "One must take into account the internal problems of many of the states of the Commonwealth. After all, the question can be resolved in stages. The state of affairs in the CIS today is not a chasm, it is a distance of road that can be covered not in a leap, but in several steps."

Aspects of Draft Debated

LD2201123393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1118 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Minsk, January 22 TASS—The morning meeting of the CIS summit here has discussed three problems. First on the agenda was the problem of setting up an inter-state bank. An agreement was reached on this document, except for two points of secondary importance, which the experts were instructed to finalise. A document has been signed to regulate the securities market. About twenty minutes were spent on the discussion of these two documents. All the rest of the time was devoted to deliberations on the draft CIS statute.

The floor was taken by the leaders of all the delegations. The view was voiced that this most important document should be signed today by all the countries willing to accept the basic principles of the version of the document drafted for the current summit. Readiness to sign the draft statute in its present form was expressed in their speeches by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who took the floor after Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. The latter abstained from approving the statute. In addition to Ukraine, the group of states that did not want to sign the draft statute, includes Moldova and Turkmenistan. They moved today not to sign the document and to continue working on it.

After keen debates, a decision was adopted to draw up a new document on the basis of the views expressed by the two groups of states. Though without a title yet, the new document notes that all the CIS countries without exception are concerned about the situation in the Commonwealth and deem it necessary to adopt a document that would regulate relations within the CIS and would help the Commonwealth to extricate itself from the situation in which it has landed, to reach practical decisions primarily on economic problems.

It was decided that summit experts shall draw up such a document and submit it to the heads of state and government. If the new document satisfies everybody, it will be signed today.

High Expectations for Signing

LD2201132593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1237 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Minsk January 22 TASS—While the presidents of the CIS states are still trying to settle disputes over the proposed CIS charter, their prime ministers are striking cooperation deals and agreements.

The Belarusian Government has signed a cooperation agreement with Tajikistan, the fifth bilateral document signed by Belarus since the beginning of the summit on Friday. The agreement was signed by Belarusian First Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich and Tajik Prime Minister Abdumalik Abduladzhanov. The parties stressed the agreement creates favourable conditions for

the development of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. Abduladzhanov admitted, however, that at initially the agreement provides more advantages for his republic.

Meanwhile the presidents of the CIS states participating in the CIS summit meeting in Minsk are expected to sign two documents on Friday: a CIS charter and a memorandum.

The move has been initiated by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk who suggested that the states which have no objections to the proposed CIS charter sign it today. The memorandum will be signed by the leaders of all CIS member states, including those who are not yet ready to sign the charter (Ukraine, Moldova and Turkmenistan).

Russian Vice-Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin believes the charter is a comprehensive and flexible document which envisages various forms of integration and CIS membership, adding that Russia is ready to sign it today.

The memorandum is a more general document expressing the readiness of all CIS states to develop cooperation within the Commonwealth of Independent States and defining the main principles of their cooperation.

Interstate Bank Creation Approved

OW2201121893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1209 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The heads of Commonwealth governments have approved the creation of a Commonwealth Interstate Bank. This was announced on Friday at a briefing in Minsk by Yuriy Bekhterev, a member of the CIS working group's press service. According to him, during consideration of the draft agreement on the bank, disputes arose on two issues: on the unit of currency among the republics and on the mechanism by which the bank's Board of Directors passes decisions.

As a result, the heads of governments decided that accounts would be kept in rubles, and that the Central Bank of Russia would manage ruble emissions.

Regarding representation on the bank's Board, the Russian side insisted that countries should be represented according to their national revenues and GNP. Representatives of other Commonwealth countries were categorically against this idea. As a result, the press-service reports, the parties decided that 50% of the votes on the Board would be Russia's and the remaining 50% would belong to the other Commonwealth states. Seventy five percent of board members need to approve a decision for it to be put into effect.

The prime ministers of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine "did not vote for the passage of such work conditions for the bank board," Bekhterev reported.

Chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, Viktor Gerashchenko thinks that the heads of Commonwealth states in Minsk will sign the agreement to found the Interstate Bank. The document is almost in its final draft, Gerashchenko said in an interview with Interfax Friday in Minsk.

In his opinion, a year of work in "separate financial structures" has shown Commonwealth countries the necessity of such a mechanism, which will help to surmount the majority of today's economic difficulties.

Prime Ministers Approve Draft

LD2201104393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0957 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By BELINFORM special correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Minsk January 22 TASS—The CIS prime ministers, who met here today morning before the opening of the joint meeting of the CIS heads of state and heads of government councils, have approved the draft statute of the Commonwealth and have submitted it for the consideration of the heads of state.

They also approved a draft document on the establishment of an international bank.

But this draft, according to information received from the CIS working group, was amended and now Russia will have 50 per cent of the votes in the new bank.

Assessing the results of the morning meeting of the CIS prime ministers, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation Viktor Chernomyrdin said: "I am very much pleased with the beginning of our meetings."

First Session Ends; Agenda Approved

LD2201101993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Report by Vera Shchelkunova from Minsk]

[Text] The first session of the Council of Heads of CIS Governments ended in Minsk half an hour ago. Kazakhstan Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko reported to us that the agenda has been approved. He also said that the first session went normally.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin explained that there were two key documents. They are connected with the Commonwealth's rules and with the founding of an interstate bank. As was predicted, these documents received the almost complete approval of the Council of Heads of Government, with a special view being expressed by Ukraine and Turkmenistan that was also forecast.

These issues are now being discussed at the joint sitting of the Councils of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the CIS. If they receive approval at this sitting, then Russia—according to Aleksandr Shokhin's report—will put forward its proposals. He refused to comment on these proposals for the moment.

With this, I end my short report from Minsk, where the conference of heads of CIS states and governments is being held.

Three States Refuse To Sign

OW2201121493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1209 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Discussion of the draft CIS Charter at the summit in Minsk on Friday has shown a divergence of views by various sides. At the joint assembly of the Council of the heads of State and the Council of the heads of Commonwealth governments, the majority were in favor of signing the draft Charter.

Belarus announced its readiness to sign the draft, without part 3 regarding collective security, and the provision on dividing border troops. Russian President Boris Yeltsin remarked that "absolutely all provisions of the charter" suit Russia and they correspond with the country's national interests. Kazakhstan was in favor of approving the draft Charter.

Until the recess, however, Turkmenistan's position was still unclear; the country does not categorically refuse to sign the Charter, but has several reservations. The Moldovan delegation announced that due to the difficult political situation in the republic, and the fact that the Moldovan parliament has not yet ratified the founding documents of the CIS, Chisinau cannot sign the draft Charter at this time.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk confirmed that Kiev did not find it necessary to sign the draft Charter in its present form.

The heads of Commonwealth states, taking into account the Ukrainian president's announcements, decided to discuss possible compromise versions during the recess in order to find a formula which Ukraine would find acceptable to join the Charter.

Experts think it possible that for instance, a memorandum could be signed or a protocol to the CIS Charter, which would reflect Ukraine's interests.

In addition to this, according to information from Minsk, separate meetings of the Council of heads of state and heads of Commonwealth governments have begun. The Presidents have returned to the question of the CIS Charter.

In the first half of the day on January 22, at the joint meeting the heads of states and Commonwealth governments in principle approved an agreement on a CIS interstate bank and a document on regulating an interstate securities market.

Defense Ministers Discuss Changes in Forces Agreement

OW2101170693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Defence Minister stated that on Thursday [21 January] the Council of the CIS Defence Ministers solved all the problems with the exception of that of space communication. He told INTERFAX that this question was removed from the agenda on Russia's initiative.

Russia alone should control space communication and all of the related agreements should be concluded with Moscow on a bilateral basis," he said. [quotation marks as received]

Shortly after the session of the Council, the Committee for Nuclear Policies, consisting of the defence ministers of Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus, concentrated on the CIS strategic forces.

Grachev told INTERFAX with reference to the Lisbon protocol that the entire nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union must belong to Russia.

Deputy head of the Russian armed forces' General Staff Vladimir Zherbenko expressed regret that "to this day no agreement has been reached on the ownership of nuclear armaments." "This question is passed from one session over to another, but no progress has been made," he said.

The complexity of the problem can be explained by differences in the positions of the CIS member-states. "So far, only Belarus has stated that all of the nuclear weapons located in its territory belong to Russia," he said. The two other nuclear states - Kazakhstan and Ukraine - are afraid to lose nuclear weapons, even though they have proclaimed their plans to become nuclear-free.

To quote Kazakhstan's Defence Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov, Alma-Ata's position on strategic nuclear weapons coincides with that of the CIS Commander-in-Chief Marshal Shaposhnikov. "We would welcome centralized control over the strategic forces," he said. He also expressed hope that Kazakhstan and Russia will find a common language.

Ukraine's First Deputy Defence Minister, Colonel-General Ivan Bizhan told INTERFAX that Ukraine has not changed its position on the status of the armed forces. "We shall insist on delimiting the levels of control over the strategic nuclear forces. Ukraine must retain administrative control," he said.

However, Ivan Bizhan did not rule out the possibility of attaining a compromise, if it meets the interests of Ukraine.

Commenting on Ukraine's position on the ownership of nuclear weapons, Ivan Bizhan said that "everything that is located in Ukraine and is under Ukraine's jurisdiction is the indisputable property of Ukraine." He did not say

whether Ukraine may renounce the status of nuclear power, noting that this problem "deserves a separate discussion."

Council Expresses Optimism

WS2101154393 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1331 GMT 21 Jan 93

["The Military Are Building a 'Bridgehead' for the Heads of the CIS States"—BELINFORM headline]

[Text] The poor weather did not disrupt, but only postponed for a few hours, the meeting of the CIS Defense Council, held on 21 January in the Central Officers House of the Belarusian Defense Ministry.

In his first fleeting interview, Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS United Armed Forces, made it clear that the key issue of the meeting would be further functioning of the CIS strategic nuclear forces. Shaposhnikov said that since the defense ministers of the CIS states who have strategic nuclear weapons deployed on their territory arrived to Minsk, he hoped that the military would build a good foundation for positive solutions of all issues which the heads of the CIS states had to discuss on 22 January. Refraining from any comments, Shaposhnikov said that despite different rumors about the split and death of the commonwealth, "we are in an optimistic and resolute mood, and I believe that there will be no split, and we will reach a new constructive level in solving all vital issues."

Delegations from all CIS states, including observers from Georgia, held this meeting behind closed doors. Only the afternoon press conference given by the defense ministers and the chief commander of the United Armed Forces cleared the matter up.

The meeting discussed several working items on the agenda and measures for the implementation of the resolutions "On Implementation of Agreements and Elaboration of Recommended Acts on Defense Issues," "On Functional Duties of Deputy Chief Commanders of the CIS United Armed Forces," "On Social and Legal Guarantees for Personnel of Groups of Military Observers and of Collective Forces for the Maintenance of Peace in the CIS," and others. The meeting also solved some financial and organizational problems and adopted the work plan of the CIS Defense Council for 1993.

No Disagreements Expected

LD2101154993 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent Igor Minayev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Today the majority of the delegations with full powers are expected to arrive in Minsk. They will participate in tomorrow's meeting of the top leaders of the CIS member-countries. A lot is expected from this meeting, including the adoption of a Charter of the Commonwealth and the main thing expected is certainty. It would be a good thing if the main issues are not put off until later.

[Minayev] Contrary to the politicians who doubt the need for the CIS, the military seems to have made its choice. They believe that the Commonwealth is vitally needed, and not in today's amorphous form, but a capable one with coordinating bodies. It is not just a question of conventional cannons and tanks, but also of nuclear weapons.

[Begin recording] [Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces] The defense ministers of all the states on whose territories strategic nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons are deployed have arrived and I hope that today we will create a good basis for a positive decision of the issues to be tackled by the heads of state tomorrow.

[Belarus Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy] I think the talks will proceed normally and calmly, and we are setting out to achieve what we all want. [end recording]

[Minayev] There are more than enough problems. Until now there is no clarity with regard to nuclear weapons and the state ownership of strategic nuclear forces has not been defined. The treaty on collective security is practically ineffective. The independent states are trying to build their own defense systems by themselves, without taking into account the opinions and interests of their neighbors. An economic and military-political alliance of states on a voluntary basis without damaging one's own sovereignty is needed. This is the stand of the High Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. If it is set up, the High Command will be able to carry out the operational guidance of the strategic nuclear forces until they are entirely eliminated on the territories of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine.

Opening the meeting, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov noted that the military ministers do not have any fundamental disagreements and, judging by everything, the summit agenda will not cause serious objections among them.

[Announcer] This was the opinion of the military and this is how the future of the Commonwealth is seen by politicians. Attempts to shut oneself off from one another turn into nothing but damage to the national economies, this was stated in Minsk by Belarussian Council of Ministers Chairman Kebich.

This is how Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev sees the Commonwealth. He proposes to divide cooperation into several independent branches: a currency, financial, and economic alliance; a commercial alliance; and a military and political alliance.

Grachev on Differences on Forces

LD2101185293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1736 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By BELINFORM-TASS special correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Minsk, 21 Jan—Russian, Ukrainian, and Kazakh views on the composition of strategic forces differ, Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister and Army general, told ITAR-TASS in an exclusive interview today. He said that the differing positions will hamper a productive discussion of amending the strategic forces agreements at the meeting of heads of state scheduled for Minsk on 22 January.

Specifying the essence of the existing differences, Pavel Grachev noted that Russia is proposing that the term "strategic nuclear forces" be used and that it apply not only to the missile complexes themselves but also to the nuclear munitions deployed on strategic bombers, missile attack warning systems, antimissile defense systems, air defense systems, and certain other control and servicing systems.

Some independent states and the CIS Joint Armed Forces main command do not agree with this and do not wish to include all these components in the composition of strategic nuclear forces. The differences become particularly evident when comparing the stands of Russia and Ukraine, the latter not finding it possible at present to agree that the strategic armed forces deployed on its territory belong to Russia. Kiev considers them Ukraine's property, renouncing at the same time its status as a nuclear state. Some sort of paradox has occurred here. It is hard to tell which way the discussion will turn in the future, but apparently we will not be able to come to an agreement at the defense ministers' level, Army General Pavel Grachev said. He said that this issue should probably be resolved at the heads of state level.

The political accord on strategic forces reached at the Moscow meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents remains valid, the minister stressed. Ukraine allows our experts access to the nuclear systems located on its territories to carry out servicing, routine inspection, and maintenance work and to replace units and parts. As Russian President Boris Yeltsin has already pointed out, Russia will also be responsible for Ukraine's nuclear safety.

Addressing the Belarusian position, Army General Grachev noted that "here everything has already been decided. Belarus has ratified all the agreements on nuclear weapons, and all that remains is to draw up a precise timetable for their removal from Belarusian territory and subsequent destruction."

Kazakhstan's position on this range of issues is close to that of Belarus. Kazakhstan's defense minister has invited Russia to examine on a bilateral basis the procedure for destroying the nuclear weapons sited on his country's territory. The matter will be decided within the next few days.

As for the draft agreement to determine the precise composition of the strategic forces, the minister feels that further work needs to be done on this. Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan should elucidate, on a bilateral basis, the content of the concept "strategic forces." This could take about a month. Then, when the list of units and combined units falling under this definition has been compiled, it can be submitted for consideration to the next session of the council of heads of state, Russia's defense minister said.

Disagreement on Nuclear Weapons Control

LD2101193993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Report by Minsk correspondent V. Vinogradov; passages within quotation marks are recorded; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Vinogradov] CIS defense ministers met in the House of Officers building all day today. The strategic nuclear weapons issue proved a stumbling block. The committee on nuclear policy—including the Russian, Ukrainian, Kazakh, and Belarusian defense ministers—began its work in the afternoon, after the CIS defense ministers' session on this issue. The uncertainty over who strategic nuclear weapons belong to is causing tension in Russo-Ukrainian relations and is alarming the West. The issue of scrapping nuclear warheads is also not completely clear on the eve of parliamentary ratifications of the START II Treaty. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev clearly expressed Russia's military views in the halls of the session:

[Grachev] "The nuclear weapons belong to Russia in accordance with the Lisbon agreement.

[Unidentified correspondent] "Are you convinced that all nuclear troops are completely subordinate to you?

[Grachev] "I am convinced."

[Vinogradov] However, Ukraine and Kazakhstan do not agree with this.

[Kazkah Defense Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov] "We are not saying that this is under Russian control."

[Vinogradov] The defense ministers must prepare a document for the heads of the CIS with recommendations on strategic nuclear weapons based on the results of today's session. Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov summed up the overall results of the defense minsters' talks:

[Shaposhnikov] "We worked fairly fruitfully and solidly. We found mutual understanding on the majority of questions on the agenda and confirmed the plan of work for 1993. We confirmed the agenda for the next session."

[Vinogradov] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's plane will land at 0830 Minsk time on 22 January.

May Omit Strategic Weapons Question

LD2201030193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] In the interval of the meeting of CIS Ministers of Defense which took place in Minsk on Thursday [21 January] it became clear that the question of strategic nuclear forces may be excluded from the agenda of today's summit, Pavel Kozlovskiy, minister of defense of Belarus, told journalists. According to RIA, Russia, Ukraine,

Belarus, and Kazakhstan have not yet been able to reach a unified opinion regarding the strategic weapons' list.

CIS Nuclear Policy Committee Meets 21 Jan

OW2101195493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1917 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The CIS nuclear policy committee, (including representatives from Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Belarus) on Thursday [21 January] held a meeting in Minsk. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev reportedly did not attend it "on account of illness," being replaced by one of the ministry's senior officials.

Belarusian Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy told INTERFAX after the meeting that "there are no disagreements between Minsk and Moscow on strategic armaments." "Our positions are identical," he added.

He said military experts will be working on amendments to the agreement on strategic forces until the morning of January 22. The amendments will then be considered the same day by the CIS summit. Some of the republics demand that the list of units classified as belonging to strategic forces be reduced.

Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, told INTERFAX the meeting participants agreed on most points but "complete agreement was not yet reached." The marshal hopes, however, that this will happen eventually. However, "in any case, the definitive decision will be made by the heads of state," he said.

Strategic Arms Central Issue

OW2101130993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1254 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The main purpose of the meeting of CIS Defence Ministers on Minsk on Thursday [21 January] is to finally decide the future of the Strategic Nuclear Force stationed on the territories of four former Soviet Republics. The statement was made by the Commander-in-Chief of the Joint Armed Forces, Marshal Shaposhnikov, in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

Though Ukraine has declared its intention to become a nuclear-free state, he said, it has decided to set up its own nuclear arms control center, and claimed to be the owner of the nuclear weapons on its territory.

Russia believes that the international agreements accepted by the CIS are an indication of the Russian ownership of the nuclear weapons. The viewpoint is shared by Belarus, and Kazakhstan is also about the accept it.

The Marshal stressed that Ukraine does not have the appropriate mechanisms of nuclear arms control. Russia and Ukraine have approached a constructive solution to the problem. The two governments have received instructions to begin talks on the terms of dismantlement and transportation of nuclear ammunition and air defence complexes stationed in Ukraine.

Among the other subjects that might be discussed in Minsk, the Marshal singled out the ratification and implementation of the collective security treaty signed by six CIS countries, as well as the use of Russian troops as peace-keepers in the hot spots of the former USSR.

Policy Differences Between Republics

LD2101174493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1515 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Report from Minsk by correspondent Vera Shchelkunova]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] I will remind you that alongside the Council of Defense Ministers, the Committee on Nuclear Planning was also at work. This committee comprises Marshall Shaposhnikov and the heads of the appropriate departments of Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus. Naturally the question of the differences between Ukraine and Russia arose. But what about Belarus and Kazakhstan? Here is the answer from General Ivashov, [secretary of the High Command of the CIS Armed Forces]:

[Begin Ivashov recording] Well the Belarusian position is well known. Belarus agrees that its nuclear weapons should be subordinate, so to speak, to Russia, and in time they will be withdrawn from Belarusian territory, and in my opinion the position has been agreed upon. Regarding Kazakhstan, all issues are also being decided, issues of the nuclear safety of these weapons, acquisition of personnel, all is being decided. Naturally, the process of exchanging opinions, the process of searching for optimal decisions is ongoing.

Not everything has been straightened out with Ukraine yet. But we think that the meeting which took place on 15 January between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents and all the agreements which they reached, allow solutions to be found at a lower level, at the level of defense ministries and the High Command. And this work is ongoing. Unfortunately it is not easy work. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Belarus: Weapons Belong to Russia

LD2201095693 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 22 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Whether the Minsk meeting of heads of state and government will result in anything or not will be seen at the end of the day. But at this moment we already have some rather sensational news: Belarus officials have stated that nuclear weapons situated on the territory of that republic unconditionally belong to Russia. Perhaps this fact will cause complications when the

package of military issues is discussed, because the positions of the other nuclear republics—Kazakhstan and Ukraine—do not coincide with that of Belarus.

Unable To Agree on Forces

OW2201115993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1113 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev reports that at the last session of the Committee for Nuclear Policy on Thursday evening in Minsk, which was attended by representatives from Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus, no agreement was reached on with regard to strategic nuclear forces due to disagreements between the nations involved.

In a Friday interview with Interfax, he noted that Ukraine in particular was insisting that only nuclear missiles themselves should be considered strategic nuclear forces. Kazakhstan, said Grachev, supported the formulation advocated by the supreme command of the United Forces of the CIS, which stipulates that the term "nuclear forces" should also include military formations and installations having strategic nuclear weapons in their arsenals or stores, as well as attached maintenance units.

The minister, who believes that nuclear forces should be exclusively Russian, noted that only with Belarus is there no divergence on this question. Grachev expressed the hope that differences between Ukraine and Russia, and those between Russia and Kazakhstan, could "in principle" be solved through bilateral negotiations. "Only in such a way," said the minister, "can we realistically determine the disposition of nuclear forces on the territories of our countries during the transition period." Touching on the newly-scheduled meetings between heads of Commonwealth states regarding a draft document including changes to the agreement on strategic forces, the defense minister expressed doubt that it would be signed. Grachev believes that its signing would most likely be postponed until the next meeting of CIS heads of state so that Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan could, on a bilateral basis, agree on a position on this issue. The document, which was discussed last evening by the Commonwealth ministers of defense, envisions, in particular, a reduction in the list of units attached to CIS strategic forces.

Leaders Unanimous in Support for Continuing CIS

Ter-Petrosyan for Charter

LD2101195293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1902 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Minsk, 21 Jan—"The CIS Charter is a document that should have been signed long ago," Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan told ITAR-TASS today. The president is in Minsk for the session of the Council of CIS heads of state.

"I do not see any political ruses in the charter," he said. Asked if he sees any advantage for Armenia in membership of the CIS, he said, "If we saw no advantage, we would not be taking part."

Kravchanka for Economic Cooperation

WS2101154693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] It is certain that, in economic terms, there is no alternative to the CIS, said Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka after the meeting of the CIS foreign ministers. In political terms, we are not yet able to stand on our own feet, however much we want to. That is why, without rejecting our sovereignty, national origins, and the building of our statehood, we must substantially intensify economic cooperation.

My understanding is, the foreign minister continued, that the CIS is, first of all, an organ of economic cooperation. We would not be able to survive without it. This is a tough reality, which every politician must remember. And the meeting has shown an increasing understanding of such an approach, emphasized Kravchanka.

Chernomyrdin Hopeful

LD2101192093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1800 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Minsk January 21 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin who arrived in Minsk on Thursday, voiced hope that the CIS summit opening in Minsk on January 22 would be a success.

Chernomyrdin said that there is an opportunity to strengthen the Commonwealth rather than to destroy it. Asked by ITAR-TASS about the content of his meeting with leaders of the Belarusian Government scheduled on Thursday [21 January], Chernomyrdin said that the meeting would focus on bilateral trade and economic relations.

Kozyrev on Yeltsin's Role

OW2101180193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, stated on Thursday [21 January] that the Minsk summit will become a milestone in the history of the CIS. He believes, however, that individual efficient agreements would not suffice. He told Diplomatic Panorama that, during the summit, Russian President Boris Yeltsin will have "to bring the different viewpoints to a common denominator once again."

He confirmed that the Russian leader would make proposals that might be described as the CIS doctrine. He did not give any details of this doctrine, however.

Belarusian Foreign Minister, Petr Kravchenko, told Diplomatic Panorama that "in its current state, the Commonwealth of Independent States will no longer exist." In his opinion, a second version - CIS-2, or a new economic community with a different name may emerge. Whatever the case, such a community will inevitably come into being, he said.

Niyazov Urges Consolidation, Equality

LD2101192493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1813 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Minsk January 21 TASS—Turkmenistan calls for consolidation and equal relations in the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov said in arrival at a Minsk airport on Thursday.

He stressed that Turkmenistan "comes out against any dictatorship in the Commonwealth, but for the Commonwealth in principle."

Touching upon the CIS Charter, Niyazov said he would have to get acquainted with the latest amendments made to the draft charter which would be submitted on Friday to the discussion by the Council of CIS Heads of State.

Kravchuk for Constructive Dialogue

LD2201085393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0759 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Leonid Timofeyev for TASS]

[Text] Minsk January 22 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk arrived in the Belarussian capital Minsk on Friday to attend a CIS summit meeting opening here today.

"We have arrived with a hope for constructive interaction," Kravchuk told journalists upon his arrival.

The president said he has brought proposals on ways to increase the effectiveness of the Commonwealth activities. Speaking about the proposed CIS charter, Kravchuk said the summit should adopt a document which could meet everybody's interests.

He stressed the need to take into account the possibilities of every state and avoid any dictate. Otherwise the CIS states will never reach an accord, Kravchuk said.

Uzbekistan Calls CIS 'Necessity'

LD2101165393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1515 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksandr Mineyev and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Minsk, 21 Jan—Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov stated at the Moscow airport today that the CIS is a necessity after the disintegration of the USSR. He arrived in the capital of Belarus to take part in the meeting of the council of Commonwealth heads of states. According to the Uzbekistan president, due to the economic problems which have arisen, those who believed that the CIS is "a civilized form of divorce" are forced to participate in the Commonwealth. Answering the ITAR-TASS correspondent's question on the attitude of Uzbekistan towards a draft CIS charter, he noted that the name "charter" is far too grand. At the same time he spoke in favor of the need to sign a document defining the rights and duties of the Commonwealth countries. Moreover, he noted, Uzbekistan is also prepared to sign this document with certain reservations.

Touching on the unification of the countries of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, Islam Karimov stressed that this is a new form of community and its purpose is to realize what is not working out within the CIS framework. According to him, there is no need to be afraid of this association. "We do not intend to be extras in the CIS," the Uzbekistan president stated. "If the Commonwealth remains a declaratory organization, we will implement what has been decided in Tashkent after extricating ourselves from the crisis."

Further on Islam Karimov said that by deepening its domestic problems in the sphere of power—representative and executive powers—Russia creates problems for other states and aggravates their economic difficulties.

Nursultan Nazarbayev, head of the state of Kazakhstan, arrived at Minsk airport after the Uzbekistan president. Talking to journalists at the airport, he expressed satisfaction that the meeting of CIS heads of state would finally be taking place after several postponements. The Kazakhstan leader was also satisfied with the agenda which is being submitted for tomorrow's session of the council of heads of state.

Ivan Korotchenya, coordinator of the CIS working group, who was meeting Nursultan Nazarbayev, told journalists that the heads of state could discuss the issue of an interstate court at their meeting. The foreign ministers of the CIS countries, who were in session yesterday [20 January], decided not to include this item on the agenda because "it needs further expert study."

It is expected that President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan, who is completing a visit to Israel, will arrive late this evening. It is also expected that the delegations from Turkmenistan, Armenia, and Tajikistan will be arriving today. A delegation of observers has already arrived from Azerbaijan, as have Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and those accompanying him. Russian President Boris Yeltsin will be arriving in Minsk tomorrow morning.

Belarusian, Russian Leaders Sign Trade Accords

LD2101214393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2025 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By Yakov Alekseychik, BELINFORM correspondent, for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 21 Jan—"Any attempts by certain politicians to separate Belarus from Russia are futile," stated Vyacheslav Kebich, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Belarus, during his meeting with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian prime minister, which was held in the government reception center late this evening. A bilateral trade and economic agreement for 1993 was signed as a result of the talks which took place. The prime ministers of Russia and Belarus stressed that the document which has been signed is an exceptionally profitable one for both sides and that it confirms the friendly nature of the relations between the two fraternal peoples.

Answering a question on the possible outcome of the conference of heads of state and governments of the CIS countries in Minsk, Viktor Chernomyrdin expressed a great wish that the CIS Charter would be signed.

After this Vyacheslav Kebich held meetings with Nursultan Nazarbayev, the president of Kazakhstan, and Petr Tereshchenko, the prime minister of Kazakhstan, and also with with Leonid Kuchma, prime minister of Ukraine.

Belarus, Uzbekistan Sign Trade, Economic Agreements

LD2101220293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1839 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Yakov Alekseychik for TASS]

[Text] Minsk January 21 TASS—The Belarusian prime minister Vyacheslav Kebich and his Uzbek counterpart, Abdulkhashim Mutalov, signed agreements on trade and economic cooperation for 1993 and trade relations between Belarus and Uzbekistan in Minsk on Thursday [21 January].

During the meeting the two prime ministers exchanged opinions about the situation in the CIS on the eve of the CIS summit.

Tajikistan's Rakhmonov Hopeful for CIS Aid at Summit

LD2101195493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1905 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Timofeyev for TASS]

[Text] Minsk January 21 TASS—Chairman of the Tajik Parliament Imamali Rakhmonov, who arrived in Minsk on Thursday [21 January] to attend a CIS summit, described the situation in Tajikistan as normal.

He said that Tajikistan was going through considerable difficulties connected with the restoration of the economy destroyed as a result of the fratricidal war. Rakhmonov said that Tajikistan hoped to resolve the problems of guarding its frontiers by joint efforts and expressed the hope that his colleagues from the CIS would render assistance to the Tajik people.

Rakhmonov emphasised that the Minsk summit is as important as the Khudzhand session of the Tajik Parliament which outlined the way for the restoration of peace.

International Movement for Democratic Reforms Warns CIS

LD2101232993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2103 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krasulin]

[Text] Moscow January 21 TASS—"Following the formation of the economic union of Central Asian countries the Commonwealth of Independent States has found itself on the verge of a critical point facing the danger of a total collapse," Igor Smirnov, chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Movement for Democratic Reforms (DRM), said at a news conference on Thursday [21 January] devoted to the CIS Summit opening in Minsk on Friday.

"On the eve of the meeting we would like to warn presidents of the responsibility put on them by history and the people," Smirnov said." Today, the Commonwealth of Independent States is the only instrument preventing the collapse of the independent states themselves," he said. "The destruction of this mechanism might trigger another redemarcation of frontiers which will lead to further disruption of economic ties, civil war and a total chaos," he pointed out.

A statement issued by the DRM Executive Committee says that leaders of independent countries have enough power and authority to bring about a change in the course of developments and by joint efforts to prevent further sliding into an abyss and ensure peace, security, safety and proper living standards for the people.

DRM leaders believe that the formation of the Euroasian community on the basis of the Euroasian Charter and the treaty on principles of cooperation and the achievement of civil peace and national consensus, as a "maximum programme," can be achieved as a result of the CIS Summit. The charter as well as a mechanism of the formation of the Euroasian community were worked out at the DRM second congress and sent to all presidents, leaders of parties and movements of independent states and were approved by a number of political leaders.

Leaders, Commentator Ponder Prospects for CIS

PM2101152593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jan 93 First Edition p 7

[Feature comprising articles by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, and Belarusian Premier Vyacheslav Kebich, followed by unattributed commentary: "The Commonwealth's Difficulties Are Surmountable"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] A collective of staffers from the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Comparative Political Science headed by Director Timur Timofeyev, corresponding

member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, has prepared articles by Nursultan Nazarbayev, Aleksandr Rutskoy, and Vyacheslav Kebich for our newspaper. A special center for studying problems of the development of the CIS and in general the independent states with newly foreign status has been set up within the framework of this institute. The center's first major product is an almanac entitled "Forum (Problems of the Commonwealth)," and this feature will familiarize our readers with its contents. The almanac will be published in a few days' time.

The book can be ordered from the Institute of Comparative Political Science at the following address: 101831 Moscow, Center, Kolpachnyy Pereulok, 9-a.

Nursultan Nazarbayev: A Policy of Sensible Integration

I received a letter from the Russian Academy of Sciences asking me to write an article on the problems of the Commonwealth of Independent States, ways of rallying the CIS, and the prospects for Kazakhstan's development. I could not refuse such a request as the proposed theme represents the fruit of my constant, difficult reflections and daily activity.

The new formation of republics from the former Soviet federation is one year old.

...I will say directly: From the very first day of its existence, the Commonwealth acquired by no means traits which could ensure it viability and effectiveness. From the very beginning it was characterized by a discrepancy between stated principles and practical actions. Thus the Alma-Ata declaration—the fundamental CIS document—states that one of the main principles underpinning the Commonwealth is renunciation of the use of force or the threat of force. Yet the bloody war between Armenia and Azerbaijan (which, however, did not ratify the Alma-Ata accords) continues...

George Washington once likened the United States to an heir "who has come into a sizable inheritance somewhat prematurely." Roughly the same can be said about the independent republics of the former Soviet federation. Today conscious socioeconomic integration is being hindered by unresolved political questions and by the lack of experience of interstate contacts on a bilateral and multilateral basis. The stubborn refusal of some statesmen to understand that the rupture of integration ties considerably hampers the development of productive forces, complicates the process of emerging from economic crisis, and slows down its already feeble pace should also be added to this. Clearly, hypocrisy and populism as a means of achieving political ends are still taking precedence over sober economic approaches to the prevailing situation. All this may ultimately lead to artificial autarky and the autonomous existence of republics hitherto linked by thousands of different threads.

...The fragile edifice of the Commonwealth created at the end of 1991 does not yet take full account of age-old traditions of cooperation between the countries and peoples of this part of Eurasia. As a result, the processes of switching to a free market economy and democracy in the CIS are accompanied by a rise in socioeconomic and political instability, the exacerbation of existing conflicts, and the emergence of new ones.

The trouble is that the CIS continues to exist in an ineffective, amorphous form whereas any degree of integration demands the creation of efficiently operating central structures. There is no alternative to a policy of interrepublic coordinating organs, but it is precisely to this that the heads of certain CIS states are objecting.

It is now finally clear that our original error was to try to envelop the maximum number of republics from the former Soviet federation within the Commonwealth. We should not have pandered to everybody's feelings, still less perceived the new formation as a lightweight, truncated version of the USSR.

Back at the October meeting in Alma-Ata, I suggested dividing the proposed integration process into three independent areas:

—a trade alliance;

—a currency-financial and economic alliance;

—and a military-political alliance, granting each area a finished form, that is, its own charter, program, plenipotentiary organs, and membership criteria. The latter should be made quite stringent, proceeding from the greatest possible degree of integration today between the republics that are most "advanced" in this respect.

I am convinced that, if the question were posed in these terms, the states which might be left "outside" some or even all of these alliances would most definitely join them once the first signs of successful integration appear. As for current problems of relations, these could be regulated through bilateral interrepublic agreements.

...I still continue to advocate a policy of sensible integration of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Aleksandr Rutskoy: Let Us Resolve Contradictions Peacefully

The collapse of the USSR exacerbated the problem of the "Russian-speaking population" and the status of the Army in the countries that emerged on former Union territory. The struggle against "migrants," "occupiers," and so on waged in various ways has shifted from the level of moral, psychological, and social pressure, to a state-legal level, and in many cases is elevated to the rank of state policy, assuming the form of juridical, political, and economic pressure...

There is a great increase in the flow of refugees into Russia (the number, according to certain statistics, exceeds 1 million individuals and grows with every passing day), who include people of various nationalities... Unfortunately, social and ethnic tension is increasing in regions enveloped by interethnic clashes.

What has fueled the flames of conflict? The reasons are common to all the nearby foreign states. The most important of them are as follows: the deterioration of the economic situation, the increased complexity of the political situation, the border problem, traditional ethnic conflicts, human rights violations, unregulated migration in the past, and the ecological crisis. There is yet another important factor helping to escalate the conflicts. Namely, the struggle between the local elites and mafia groupings, which is taking the form of interethnic clashes. The difficulty in neutralizing such conflicts lies in their irrationality, in the fact that an onlooker finds them inexplicable, and therefore in the limited nature of any external influence on the course of events...

Is the course of events fatal? I do not believe so. But to prevent their dangerous downward turn, it follows above all that the existing threat must be realized. Peoples, parliaments, presidents, governments, heads of political parties, and leaders of warring groupings must be aware of it. Clearly, the present contradictions will not disappear in the immediate future, and efforts by state and social organizations must be aimed at resolving these contradictions peacefully. We all need to learn restraint and mutual understanding and to master the art of compromise. You know, it is a paradoxical situation: Many countries that were former USSR republics are establishing friendly relations with many states around the world but cannot agree among themselves. History has made us neighbors, we have been neighbors for hundreds of years, and we will remain neighbors in the future. Culture in mutual relations is an urgent necessity for our states and an essential condition of their survival.

Vyacheslav Kebich: We Need Each Other

We are living through a very complex era. At no time and in no place have major transformations proceeded smoothly or painlessly. This is an objective process, and it is pointless to oversimplify it, reduce it to questions of whom to blame, and try to put everything neatly into place.

In our view, it is more important to correctly sense the overall situation and define the mechanisms which should be set in motion in order to get out of this difficult situation.

Our relations with CIS countries are of tremendous importance for stabilizing the republic's financial situation. The relatively short but very complex period since the Commonwealth's emergence has convincingly shown that attempts to fence ourselves off from one another result in nothing but damage to the national economies.

And I think that many people have realized this today. We do not just need each other, we need each other desperately.

Despite certain differences in our views of the Commonwealth's structure, the desire to find forms of organization which will implement the task of cooperation has nevertheless prevailed. I believe that this is of immense significance.

Life shows the need to opt for flexible forms of relations, concluding agreements on both a multilateral basis and a bilateral basis, if this is in the interests of the cause. Eventually it is possible that these agreements could become the core for resolving problems of exceptional importance for all CIS countries and former Union republics. [Kebich ends]

We Have Lived and Continue To Live in the Same Home

Opinions on the fortunes of the CIS are often polarized. But on the whole, they can be boiled down to the two most general views. First: The Commonwealth is a natural form of collaboration among its member countries and it will gather strength, creating coordinating structures as necessary. Second: The CIS is a kind of way of dividing up the property jointly acquired in the USSR.

Each of these views is backed by certain forces and their real interests. Thus the first is backed by a feeling which is still powerful in the mass consciousness, that of involvement in some kind of unifying principle fed by historical traditions and contemporary needs. The second is based on notions that the sources of negative phenomena (economic chaos, crime, and so on) lie outside the given sovereign republic, fueling a desire for self-isolation.

Life is again confirming the old adage that the development of relations is founded on mutual interest.

The different levels of socioeconomic development in the independent states and the unevenness in the progress of reforms (in some states it is quite broad, in others it is developing in certain areas, and in yet other states it is still only in the very early stages)—all these circumstances create an extremely checkered picture of working people's socioeconomic situation and their reaction to reformist processes. The pattern of attitudes toward the reforms and, in particular, toward the switch from evolutionary radical implementation of them to faster implementation has been demonstrated particularly sharply in the reaction of CIS countries to the Russian Government's political and economic course. This course is based on a desire for a sharp, "shock" change in existing economic, political, and social relations, for the faster introduction of neoliberal market economy structures, and for the accelerated formation of an entrepreneurial class accompanied by the minimum necessary measures for social protection.

The complex question arises of the readiness and, more importantly, the ability of workers in state structures, emerging enterpreneurs, and societies in the CIS countries in general to implement all-round and fundamental reforms. Entirely objective limitations exist here, linked in particular with the fact that the coming into being of hired labor and entrepreneurs is still in its early phases. It would be irrational and rash to expect—still less demand—that entrepreneurs who are just getting on their feet and hired laborers who are only beginning to acquire self-determination will behave like their counterparts in societies with not just decades but centuries of traditions of struggle and partnership.

As research by scientists at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute for Comparative Political Science partly reflected in the "Forum" shows, today's level of sociocultural development makes it possible not only to avoid sharp conflict between Western-looking or Eastern-looking orientations but to bring about a synthesis of these two established outlooks and to work out a balanced model of reform and modernization.

Another problem is the correlation between traditionalism and reform, especially their extreme, radical forms. Analysis shows that radicalism in both instances is unproductive. The model of the constructive combination of reform and traditionalism based on national and regional agreement about paths of natural development is far more effective.

The problems that the new independent countries' political leaders are running up against today in implementing the necessary transformations are rooted in the contradictions between the principles of economic management (efficiency, rationality, and so on) and the existing conditions for implementing them (from resources to culture). Experience of the comparative analysis of different regions makes it possible to assume that a social market economy can take the form of a corporative-state system with a high degree of distinctiveness at each tier of organization and with a contradictory combination of market monopolization and freedom in the economy, authoritarian and democratic trends in politics, and commitment and independence in the trade unions.

In the social sphere, the problem cannot be resolved by simply increasing the size of various benefits and payments. There is a need to develop mechanisms for the social self-protection and self-organization of citizens at all sorts of levels and to strengthen neighborhood and residential associations, organizations of producers and consumers, movements of working people and pensioners, and associations of students, cooperatives, women, state employees, and so on. But this presupposes the emergence alongside state and private ownership of a whole range of forms of possession and disposal of property. In this connection, the "Forum" draws attention to the insufficient readiness for privatization—or rather "destatization"—both on the part of the population in general, which is unclear about the possibility of exercising property rights, and on the part of the new states' authorities, which are formulating vague and skimpy legal and administrative bases for inptroducing new forms of ownership. Although the functions of defending the new independent states have to a large extent now passed to national armed forces, this by no means excludes the possibility that a number of Commonwealth states, guided by their own security interests, could establish closer relations in the defense policy sphere. Ideas for establishing international control (by the CIS, United Nations, or other structures) over disputed military facilities or facilities which are of international significance, such as the Sevastopol naval base, and so on, also warrant attention.

So where is the CIS going? We are beginning to understand that we are citizens of different states, but we nevertheless remain in a common Eurasian area. It is paradoxical but true: The autonomous, sovereign arrangement of "national apartments" does not weaken but, on the contrary, ultimately reinforces reciprocal interest in neighbors' affairs and the inclination to understand their needs and moods and strengthens awareness of the fact that we not only used to live, but still live in the same "home" with a common infrastructure.

Leaders Seen Preserving CIS in Own Interests

PM2101190793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jan 93 p 2

[Feature on 22 January Minsk CIS summit comprising unattributed summary of "The Main Documents Expected To Be Put Before the Minsk Meeting of CIS Heads of State," followed by Valeriy Vyzhutovich commentary entitled "Artificial Respiration—The Question of the CIS Charter Will Obviously Be Raised. But It Is Unlikely To Be Resolved"]

[Text] **Main Documents Expected To Be Put Before the Minsk Meeting of CIS Heads of State**

1. A declaration on international commitments in the sphere of human rights and basic freedoms.

2. An agreement on setting up an Interstate Bank and on establishing a payment and accounting mechanism in the ruble zone.

3. An agreement concerning the Statute on the Council of CIS States' Defense Ministers.

4. An agreement on amending the Agreement on Strategic Forces.

5. A convention on legal aid and legal relations in civil, family, and criminal matters.

6. An agreement regulating the interstate securities market.

7. A draft CIS Charter.

8. A statute on the Consultative Economic Working Commission under the Council of Heads of State, and the Council of Heads of Government.

9. A document on the dates and location for holding the next Council of Heads of State session.

10. Kazakhstan's leadership intends to propose that questions on measures to stabilize the situation on that section of the state border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan be included in the agenda.

11. Miscellaneous (including a question on the domestic situation in Tajikistan.)

[Vyzhutovich commentary begins] If the scheduled 22 January Minsk meeting of leaders of CIS countries disappoints anybody, it will only be those who are expecting more from it than should be expected from a political gathering of state figures linked not so much by the solidity of the Commonwealth they created, as by the impossibility of abruptly tearing it down.

It is primarily the interests of their own states which are forcing the presidents to prolong the life of their year-old offspring. These interests teeter between the fear of reviving the center, with Russia in the role of "big brother," and the burning need for a single economic area. All things considered, the former greatly outweighs the fact that not one of the agreements signed so far—and there are already over 200 of them—is being honored in practice. The existence of the CIS is supported by artificial respiration—there is no other way to describe the system of mutual assurances, polite handshakes, and diplomatic smiles exchanged by leaders of CIS countries at their summits, so far without result.

There are few grounds for anticipating a major success in Minsk which would significantly advance Commonwealth participants along the road of political, economic, and military integration. The CIS Charter—conceived as the main document at the forthcoming meeting—is unlikely to be signed. Even before the official examination, its draft will be rejected by Leonid Kravchuk for reasons enunciated somewhat less than diplomatically by Vladimir Kryzhanovskiy, Ukraine's official representative in the Russian Federation: "It would be undesirable to have any kind of higher state structures taking the role of 'elders,' which could issue commands to Commonwealth countries: 'Turn right! Turn Left! Run!' But the current draft Charter is very reminiscent of guard-duty regulations."

This interpretation of the document is not supported by the leaders of the Donbass coal associations or by number of Ukrainian political parties demanding that Kravchuk submit the draft CIS Charter for national discussion—which the president does not seem inclined to do.

Mircea Snegur will also refrain from putting his signature to the Charter, if only because the agreement on the CIS has not been ratified by the Moldovan parliament to this day, and Moldova's status within the ranks of Commonwealth countries has yet to be conclusively defined.

As for, say, Nursultan Nazarbayev, as the most active and consistent supporter of rapprochement he will go to Minsk with a whole package of proposals which failed to be enacted during previous meetings—such as: making the ruble the national currency, organizing a single banking alliance, conducting a common investment policy. However, judging from his statements, Nazarbayev too is reluctant to give way to complacency and discuss the CIS Charter, the Council of Heads of State, and the Defense Council before proposals to revive the single economic area have been adopted. According to the Kazakhstan president, the core of the CIS should comprise states which wholly share the idea of political and economic integration and want to be in the ruble zone, join the Collective Security Council, and have coordinating organs. Other states, which for various reasons may be unable to take on full status, should be allocated the role of associate members or observers.

There are grounds for suggesting that this time Nazarbayev will take a tougher position, sensing the powerful support of the Community of Central Asian States set up 4 January in Tashkent. Causing a sensation with its sudden appearance, this community's participant-countries have placed the viability of the CIS in doubt, warning that after creating a common market they will ultimately be forced to conclude among themselves a military-political alliance also. It is possible that this prospect will keep the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus in Minsk from superfluous impulsiveness and risky extemporizing. The recreation of Turkestan with the complete reorientation of their nearest neighbors toward the Muslim world is hardly likely to inspire them.

One way or another the issue of the CIS Charter will, obviously, be raised nonetheless. But it is unlikely to be resolved. The sides will probably limit themselves to a joint political declaration, confirming yet again their adherence to the Belovezhskaya agreements.

No quick and easy consensus seems likely on the military agreements package either, above all on the "Agreement on Amending the Agreement on Strategic Forces." The desire for a maximum defense of "sovereignty," which is especially characteristic of Ukraine's stance, will no doubt clash with those points in the draft where agreed CIS nuclear policy takes on strict organization outlines.

Perhaps the only thing nourishing cautious optimism in observers on the eve of the Minsk meeting is the former USSR republics' acute practical need for close economic community. None of them will manage to enter the market single-handedly. Capital does not recognize borders, and property owners do not argue over "who is more important." And if, as a result of the Minsk talks, at least the contours of economic union emerge, with the elements for a subsequent confederative structure in place, the business expenses of the participants in this difficult event will be justified. It is too early to say whether or not the hopes for a viable, working Commonwealth of Independent States, such as it was intended to be, will be justified.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 22 Jan

LD2201071293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0633 GMT 22 Jan 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 22 (ITAR-TASS)—Newspapers highlight the CIS summit that opens in Minsk today.

In the opinion of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, the very future of the new commonwealth is on the agenda of the summit. The newspaper singles out the adoption of the CIS Charter and problems of economic cooperation as the main items on the agenda and points out that the future of the CIS, which is a little more than one year old, depends on how those problems will be tackled.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA singles out the same items on the agenda as the most important ones, but points out that "the charter itself is not so very important, but it will become a touchstone showing once and for all who is in favour of integration and who supports disintegration. The politicians working for the creation of a confederation

regard the CIS Charter as the first step on this way, and the current summit should be of decisive importance in this respect. During the first year of the existence of the CIS everybody saw for himself that it is inefficient, and now CIS member states are facing the alternative: either to create supranational organs controlling the fulfilment of resolutions, or to dissolve the CIS."

PRAVDA pays special attention to the economic problems of the commonwealth due to be discussed at the Minsk summit. It writes that "the economic decline has assumed the proportions of an avalanche in the CIS member states. This is not only the result of the disruption of close economic ties that existed between the former USSR republics, but also the confirmation of the well-known rule that if one feels bad, others will feel bad too. According to the estimates of specialists, the gross domestic product, which is the most characteristic economic index, went down by some 20 per cent. The economic decline will continue in 1993."

According to PRAVDA, economic integration is the only way to stop the decline leading nowhere. It is clear, however, that "there is no harmony between the parties concerned, and the discussion is going to be difficult."

A group of members of the Russian parliament has contributed an article to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, in which they raise the problem of the Crimea in the context of Russia-Ukrainian relations. In their opinion, "during the working out of a treaty on the status of the Crimea, Russia and Ukraine should approach as seriously as they can their mutual demands and aspirations, as well the opinion of the Crimean population and authorities. The treaty should be ratified by both sides along with the constitutional norms of the two states. It is only the ratification that will settle once and for all the question on 'the turning over of the Crimean Oblast to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.'"

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with Major General Ruslan Aushev, who was nominanted presidential candidate by the Congress of the Peoples of Ingushetia on January 17. He said he favoured the strengthening of discipline and the "putting things in order" in Ingushetia. At the same time, he said Russian troops should be withdrawn from Ingushetia, "with the exception of the areas with the mixed Ingush and Ossetian population."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an interview with Anatoliy Kopsov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bashkortostan. He said he favoured the signing of a mutually advantageous treaty between Russia and Bashkortostan. In his opinion, there are no serious obstacles in the way of the signing of such a treaty.

PRAVDA gives wide coverage to the inauguration ceremony of Bill Clinton, the 42nd President of the United States, which took place in Washington on Thursday, as well as celebrations on that occasion.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an article dealing with the 30th anniversary of the French-German treaty on military cooperation, which is called the Elysee Treaty. The newspaper writes about the development of this cooperation, which "led to the creation of the first multinational units," as well as about its prospects.

Clinton Hoping To Meet Yeltsin 'Very Soon'

PM2101165193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jan 93 pp 1, 3

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Bill Clinton Hopes for Early Meeting with President Yeltsin"]

[Text] "I am hoping to meet with President Boris Yeltsin very soon," Bill Clinton stated a few hours before he took over as U.S. President. As he said, he wants to do "all he can to help Yeltsin and the reforms in Russia."

In an interview with CNN, Clinton stressed that he personally likes Yeltsin, and that this man is "our hope in Russia," since he is committed to democracy and market relations, and since "he was the one who was able to move the country toward democracy and toward nuclear disarmament."

The U.S. President announced that the specific time and place for the upcoming summit have not been determined yet. But as I understood from what Margaret Myers, press secretary at the Clinton White House, said, talks are going on between Moscow and Washington about the date and place.

I would remind you that Clinton did not reject the idea of a meeting then, but he did not conceal the fact that first he would like to sort out "home" matters and in particular get his bearings in his work with Congress.

Clinton got down to "home" matters very quickly. Before he had even driven up to the White House from Congress, where he and the new Vice President Albert Gore were ceremonially sworn in, Clinton had signed a series of presidential directives. One of these directives imposes very serious restrictions on future lobbying activity by high-ranking employees in the Clinton administration: For five years after they leave their posts, they will be forbidden to "work on" the ministries and departments in which they will now occupy leading posts.

It is curious that this directive, like all the other documents issued by the White House on Clinton's first day in power, does not describe the President by the name he has used all his life—Bill Clinton, but by his full name—William Jefferson Clinton. His predecessor, incidentally, never did this. Although his full name is George Herbert Walker Bush, he always called himself George Bush, even in the most official documents.

Comparing this inauguration with the one four years ago, you cannot help noticing the following detail: George and Barbara Bush had covered almost the entire distance from the Congress building along Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House on foot, only occasionally popping into the armored car traveling alongside. Clinton covered practically the whole route with Hillary in a car and emerged from it virtually in front of the White House itself.

They would have done better not to have emerged from it at all, Washington experts in women's fashion were not slow to exclaim: The first lady appeared before the honest people in a blue hat, a tweed suit with a small red check in an eighties design, and blue tights. Admirers of the new first lady at once objected: The hat and tights had been chosen to go with the color of her coat, but Hillary had taken it off on getting out of the vehicle.

...It was strange walking about the White House during the first hours after the inauguration: The former occupants had left for good, while the new ones simply had not yet had time to settle in. There were bare walls everywhere, which only yesterday had been hung with photographs recording various moments in the history of the Bush presidency. But the Clintonites must be given their due: They at once got to work, and during the very first hours the White House press corps was literally swamped with paper output.

The Clintonites proved quicker than the President himself: Even on the most solemn day in his life he proved true to his old habit of arriving late. George and Barbara Bush had to wait almost 20 minutes until the Clintons drove up to them at the White House in order to set out together for Capitol Hill. On the other hand, the President's inauguration speech was probably the shortest he has ever made: Clinton fitted it into 15 minutes. To some extent he was imitating his idol—John Kennedy, who once remarked: "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country."

It is time, Clinton said Wednesday, "for us to end the bad habit of expecting something for nothing from our government and from each other. Let us be more responsible not only toward ourselves and our families but also toward those around us and toward the whole country."

...At the very height of the parade which concluded the inauguration ceremony, an agitated Warren Christopher approached President William Jefferson Clinton. He has been appointed secretary of state but has not yet been confirmed in this post by the Senate. They spent a long time whispering about something—which suggested to the reporters observing them that there was probably an exacerbation of one of those numerous crises that are shaking the world nowadays. But, judging from the fact that the White House did not subsequently disseminate any statements or make any comment, it was nothing inordinately serious.

Rutskoy Sends Congratulatory Message to Gore

OW2101154893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Vice-President, Aleksandr Rutskoy, has congratulated Albert Gore on his inauguration as the American Vice-President. The message of greeting states that Russia appreciates the standard of relations between the two countries reached during the past few years. He stressed that he counted on close cooperation in advancing the Russian-American partnership, for the benefit of the two nations, and the rest of the world community.

Clinton's Foreign Policy Problems Viewed

MK2101171293 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 20 Jan 93 p 5

[Mikhail Shchipanov article: "Clinton: Big Maneuvers. Today Washington Will Be Lit by Fires of Celebration: George Bush's Conqueror Officially Becomes 42d U.S. President"]

[Text] The countdown to the 42d U.S. President's occupancy of the White House is indeed under way. And in another 99 days established political commentators will sum up the first results of the latest presidency, trying to discern in the results of the "100 days" the embryos of all the coming victories and failures of "slick Willie." Just as for the benefit of rubberneckers paleontologists try to recreate an extinct dinosaur's complete skeleton from a small bone that has been found.

But three months is a long time to wait for something promised. It is an unrewarding pursuit. Let us try to take a peek behind the veil of Clinton's Washington workdays. Especially since, as was only recently being expounded in Marxism-Leninism departments, there are universal laws which prevail over every White House incumbent.

Before he officially takes up the coveted presidential post Clinton has steadfastly refrained from commenting on international matters, proving to everybody that, while he is not too experienced in the foreign diplomacy sphere, he is at any rate cautious and tactically wise. Bill has taken over from the fairly skilled G. Bush, who incidentally made foreign policy his campaign hobbyhorse. True, as it turned out the hobbyhorse was a white elephant [Savraska—light-brown horse with black mane and tail]: The Yanks are tired of foreign problems. But it is now important for Clinton that under the code of honor his outgoing brother in the presidency unravel all manner of overseas brainteasers, so that not a single little knotty problem is prematurely attributed to the debutant personally. Thought must be given to the fact that, having already installed himself in the White House, Bill will be entrusting the elaboration of foreign policy to players from his own team more than his predecessors, especially at first. Vice President A. Gore, who knows which hand to receive credentials in, will cease to be the usual locum tenens and, having rolled his sleeves up, will start to move around the international board.

Although Bush is leaving, problems remain. Naturally, Clinton has nowhere to hide from them and nobody to pass the buck to. Moreover, Bush's routine problems will immediately become a test of Clinton's presidential maturity. "Eggheads" will draw public conclusions based on his reactions: Is it right that America has been "given up" to a verbose hick? Evidently Clinton's main irritant at first will be Saddam Husayn, who will have to express discontent after his second thrashing in order to satisfy his own generals and stay in power.

Naturally, faced with the "old rogue" the young White House incumbent will end up in a much more complex psychological situation than his predecessor. Bush had "Desert Storm" to his credit, which is why nobody dared to doubt his resoluteness, even if the repeat punishment that Husayn was constantly heading for had not followed. Clinton still has to prove himself "in the desert," and on no account must he flinch in the ongoing indirect duel with the dictator.

Moreover, Bush's latest, last-ditch strikes against Saddam Husayn's tentacles could significantly complicate Clinton's relations with the Arabs, who are dissatisfied with America's unbalanced approach to the "Near East sinners": Iraq is being punished whereas Israel is only being persuaded. This is why Clinton, with his a priori reputation as "Tel-Aviv's man," will doubly need to make certain overtures toward the "Arab Near East majority." What must be found here is a diplomatic form of expressing sympathy for the Arabs which would not arouse jealous suspicions in the Israelis' hearts. But this will be exceptionally difficult.

Another problem, strange as it may seem, will arise in the sphere of nuclear disarmament, which triumphantly ended Bush's career. The point is that the actual signing of START II was more of a symbolic political act. Meanwhile certain technical details of the agreement of the century, and more especially a catalog of measures concerning their implementation, could quite easily become a subject of fairly heated disputes. Here not only Russian parliamentarians but also their highly experienced colleagues across the ocean, who have long turned national security problems into a safe business, could show themselves to be particularly captious inspectors.

Traditional party solidarity might not save Clinton here. The souls of senators and congressmen brought up in the Calvinist spirit could be tormented by the handing over of considerable disarmament subsidies just like that, without additional conditions and concessions. For this reason every time the president lobbies in favor of a "Russian disarmament" budget of one kind or another, senior U.S. legislators will be able to struggle with the greatest temptation to attach their own "brilliant" amendments to the relevant draft law. The most unpleasant thing for Clinton is that the expenditure on START has been determined in the style of Soviet five-year plans, that is to say in totally random terms [v obshchepotolochnykh chertakh], and consequently the president will have a rough ride on Capitol Hill [budet pochem pochistit peryshki prezidentu]. A party is a party, but one's prestige is one's main concern.

Another unpleasant aspect of the "disarmament breakthrough" is jealous Ukraine's whims. On the one hand Clinton must be firm as a rock in the struggle against nuclear weapons proliferation. But on the other hand the delicate matter of shaping U.S. interests in post-Soviet countries demands from Washington a particular quality of tact and line of conduct that give Kiev no grounds to declare that the Yanks are in concert with imperialist Russia. In a word, comprehensive "big maneuvers" lie ahead in Clinton's first year.

At the end of the day there has always been the wise saying describing the U.S. president's four-year term: a shakeup

in the first year, hectic activity in the second and third years, and in the fourth year preparation for the next election with all the consequences ensuing from this "arduous" fact. But the thing with Clinton is that the shakeup, as they say, will cost him dear. All that remains is to really rely on the flair and flexibility of experienced players who were playing way back with President Carter.

There is yet another truism which Clinton, by all accounts, will bear out brilliantly. After coming to power any radicals start moving inexorably toward the center, which is why the well-known criticism of the undemocratic procedures prevalent in China with which the new president has contrived to distinguish himself, will evidently just remain justified campaign-trail anger. Presidents leave and others arrive, but the supreme considerations of big- league politics remain unchanged.

PRAVDA Notes Clinton's 'Less Attractive' Qualities

PM2101142793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 5

[Vladislav Drobkov report: "The 42d President of the United States of America"]

[Excerpt] Hope, Washington [passage omitted] What are the new U.S. President's most characteristic qualities? In my view, they are a purposefulness and persistence in achieving set targets. They also include his varied abilities and a brilliant education. Finally, he has the tenacious doggedness and exceptional flair of someone who looks like an ordinary man but is in fact a resolute and tough political fighter.

There are less attractive features in the portrait of the 42d President. Although many here consider these shortcomings merely an extension of his qualities. For example, Clinton has been criticized for his excessive readiness to maneuver and to compromise with "the powerful people of this world." The new President is also criticized for a pragmatic readiness to deviate from earlier promises and ideas if they clash with the demands of the moment or the interests of the political struggle. He is also criticized for a lack of experience in the management of international affairs.

For example, while expressing a desire to develop public education the Clintons have sent their daughter Chelsea to a most prestigious and expensive private school. Clinton promised during the election campaign to make it easier for Haitian refugees to enter the United States but stated the other day that the rules laid down by the Republicans will operate for the time being: namely, fugitives intercepted at sea will be sent back to Haiti. The new administration is also reviewing the promise to halve the budget deficit and a number of other election pledges.

The readiness with which Clinton supported the outgoing Republican administration's last belligerent actions was also surprising. The missile attacks and bombing raids on Iraq carried out in the past few days were clearly "Bush's parting shot," and had little to do with America's real national interests in the region, let alone ensuring the conditions for peace and stability there. Either the new President, mindful of the recent election attacks of a "lack of patriotism," is afraid of new accusations from right-wing forces, or else the Republicans have managed to saddle him with their view of the outside world and their old enemies into the bargain....

The new U.S. President has now taken office. He is being presented as a highly promising figure. Now he will have to prove that Americans did not make a mistake when they voted for him.

Zhirinovskiy 'Terrorists' To Attack U.S. Forces in Iraq

LD2201111693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1028 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—An unexpected threat is pending over the U.S. forces attacking Iraq apart from the anti- aircraft units of Saddam Husayn.

Ten Russian terrorists are being sent to Iraq by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia, to help Saddam "fight U.S. aggression", according to a spokesman of the party.

The group includes militants "experienced in mining and subversive activities" and is leaving for Baghdad on Sunday to mine and explode U.S. military technology and, possibly, U.S. warships, Gennadiy Kazantsev told TASS on Friday.

Zhirinovskiy, noted for his numerous outrageous foreign policy statements, plans to force Americans and their allies to "stop aggression against Iraq", according to Kazantsev, who added that the group includes "kamikazes" who are ready to sacrifice their life for Saddam.

Zhirinovskiy will see the group off in the Moscow international Sheremetyevo-2 airport to keep high morale of his mighty force of saboteurs.

Another spokesman, Andrey Arkhipov, confirmed that "a group of representatives of the Liberal Democratic Party" is leaving for Iraq, but refused to elaborate.

Attack on Baghdad Decried as 'Gangsterism'

934A0641A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 19 Jan 92 p 1

[Article by Vladimir Mikhaylov under the "Point of View" rubric: "Washington's 'Free-For-All'—What About Moscow?"]

[Text] That is right: What can Moscow say, if the piracy against Iraq—and one cannot call the current action anything else—was made possible only thanks to the near-sighted—to put it mildly—position taken by Russia in the United Nations.

The two-hour-long bombardment of Baghdad suburbs by Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from a cruiser and three destroyers of the U.S. Navy has produced a world reaction that was different from that to the Desert Storm operation or the recent attack on Iraq. There are several reasons for that.

First, the strike was against Iraq's capital, which was not envisioned by any UN resolutions. Second, despite Washington's contentions that the purpose of the object they attacked was to conduct work on the development of nuclear weapons, the facts say otherwise. The UN Special Commission's representative Tim Trevan [as transliterated] said that the target of the missile strike was a machine-building enterprise. This commission visited it twice; it was also inspected twice by the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency]. The equipment there was not marked by UN inspectors as subject to elimination. The Americans themselves assured Tokyo while warning it of the intended strike that there were no radioactive materials on the territory of this enterprise.

And, finally, as a result of a "surgical" strike, there was damage to civilian establishments—a hotel and the bureau of an American (!) television company were partially destroyed.

Thus, one cannot call this strike anything but gangsterism.

Some, perhaps, will find funny American claims that the Iraqis themselves allegedly shot at their own hotel, and that the debris of the American missile shown to the journalists date back to Desert Storm or maybe even to more ancient times. I do not find them funny. I am frightened and ashamed. Because the feeling of permissiveness and absolute power that Washington now feels has been reinforced in it since the time that Russia changed its course and started obediently to follow the Washington line, betraying one old friend after another.

I am also frightened that I may wake up one morning and find that American missiles have fallen on Sukhumi in order to "make Abkhazian terrorists see reason." And what if we hear some day that the "hand of Moscow" is behind the Brighton Beach mafia that terrorizes half of America and for some reason is called "Russian"? And that Moscow should be punished for it? The Sunday strike against Iraq, the earlier bombing raids on two Libyan cities, and Washington's many other actions demonstrate that hypothetically even this cannot be precluded. That is, if the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to look up to American representatives whenever a UN vote is called.

U.S. Presence Around Iraq Viewed

PM2101135793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 3

[Article by Ravil Mustafin: "United States Is Building Up Military Presence Around Iraq"]

[Text] The world community continues attentively to follow the events developing around Iraq. The British newspaper THE GUARDIAN reports that Iraq's complaints of the toughness of the military actions directed against it, leading to casualties among the civilian population, are meeting with sympathy from an increasingly wide audience. Especially as these actions are not backed by relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the "no-fly" zones in the north and south of the country were instituted by the United States and its allies and not by the United Nations. In this connection a number of Arab states has expressed serious dissatisfaction at the actions of the United States, Britain, and France against Iraq.

The development of the situation which has taken shape since the missile and comb strikes on Iraq has also made Russia specify its position on this plane. The situation around Iraq has again crossed the critical line, there are casualties among the civilian population, which is particularly regrettable, says the 18 January statement by a Russian Federation Foreign Ministry spokesman. The keys to the normalization of the situation are in Baghdad, which took no notice of the warnings. Moscow sees a way out of the situation which has taken shape in the full implementation of the UN Security Council decisions. At the same time the statement stresses that the reaction to Iraq's actions should be appropriate and should proceed only from coordinated decisions. Obviously, the statement says, there is an urgent need to review the situation in the UN Security Council.

This need, in my view, is indeed urgent. Especially as, on the one hand, the continuation of the bomb attacks will merely cause further casualties among the Iraqis and on the other Baghdad is showing its readiness to fulfill the UN resolutions. Evidence of this is the Iraqi authorities' agreement to UN aircraft transporting military inspectors to their territory and the elimination of six Iraqi police posts on Kuwaiti territory.

Moreover, Baghdad has suggested that the anti-Iraqi coalition establish a truce "on the occasion of the inauguration of the new U.S. president and as a gesture of goodwill with regard to the new President Clinton, the U.S. people, and all those who love peace and justice." Assessing the Iraqi authorities' steps, Dieter Schinzel, a German Europarliament deputy, believes that Baghdad has already fulfilled by 90 percent the resolutions adopted since the end of the Persian Gulf war.

At the same time THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, citing sources in the new U.S. President's entourage, reports that General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and a number of Clinton's advisers are anxious to put an end to the Bush administration's fluctuating and inconsistent policy with regard to Iraq as a result of which, in their opinion, the initiative has been handed over to Saddam Husayn. In turn ITAR-TASS reports that the new president has already stated that he is not accepting the Iraqi cease-fire proposal.

The United States is continuing to build up its military presence in the immediate vicinity of Iraq. The John F. Kennedy nuclear aircraft-carrying submarine is on its way to the eastern Mediterranean with 85 combat aircraft on

board. It is escorted by the cruisers Leyte Gulf and Gettysburg, both equipped with cruise missiles. The missile cruiser Belknap is on its way to the same region from Portuguese shores.

What conclusions may be drawn by analyzing U.S. actions? Behind the Americans' military preparations one can clearly see their desire to get Saddam Husayn come what may. That is borne out by Bill Clinton's statement in an interview with CBS television: "I believe that it is almost impossible to imagine having good relations with Iraq while Husayn is there." In the desire to get its own way the United States is obviously not very concerned to observe even a semblance of legality in its actions.

It is obvious that the continuation of hostilities will lead to the growth of tension and intensify the threat of Iraq's partition, which destabilizes the situation in this region even more. We should obviously also fear the adverse influence of hostilities on the Near East peace process, which has already come to a standstill. But the United States itself is increasingly appearing in the role of world gendarme, using its position as the world's only superpower.

Intelligence Service Delegation's Visit to U.S. Viewed

LD2101220493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] According to an ITAR-TASS report, the first ever official visit to the United States by executives of the Russian foreign intelligence service ended recently. According to an assesment by Vadim Kirpichenko, the leader of the Russian delegation, the Russian intelligence officers managed to inform the Americans of the civilized nature of the work of Russian foreign intelligence. They do not resort to blackmail and disinformation, nor do they finance subversive organizations abroad, nor do they encourage terrorism.

Igor Ambrosov comments on the results of this rather unusual visit:

[Ambrosov] Meetings with a special U.S. House of Representatives committee on intelligence and with the FBI, and discussions with American colleagues formed the crux of the program of the Russian intelligence officers during their stay in the United States. Let's just think for a minute. As is well known, the CIA is the American equivalent of the Russian foreign intelligence service. Although ITAR-TASS does not say so directly, reading between the lines one clearly sees that it was precisely the CIA that the Russian intelligence officers were not allowed to visit. Strictly speaking there was, to all appearances, no meeting with American colleagues.

From the American point of view there is some logic here. If we represent the conventional pair of hunter and hunted, then on the territory of each country, counterintelligence of this country is the hunter and the intelligence service of a foreign country is the hunted. So the FBI was the main partner at the talks of the delegation of our foreign intelligence service in the United States. That is, the hunted agreed with the hunter on cooperation. In what spheres?

Let's look at the ITAR-TASS report. We will see that as a result of the visit, the delegation of the Russian foreign intelligence service, I quote: Came to an agreement on the fact that between the special services of the two countries equal cooperation has to be developed for the solving of such problems as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, drug smuggling and organized crime, unquote. But according to the law of the Russian Federation on federal bodies of state security, those problems of cooperation which are agreed on by the Russian intelligence service and American counterintelligence fall within the remit of another Russian special service: the Ministry of Security.

So, the Ministry of Security, having read, like me, the ITAR-TASS report, will also want to go to America and visit the FBI, which, we will note, seems more logical for the Ministry of Security than for the Russian foreign intelligence service, and will want to agree on cooperation in exactly the same fields.

I am not talking of my feelings as a taxpayer, when twice the amount of money is being taken from my pocket for exactly the same thing. I am simply very pleased for the American taxpayer because the FBI, in solving its problems, will be helped straight off by all the Russian special services, thus making savings for the FBI, whereas the CIA, judging by its past behavior, will henceforth not pay a single cent for welcoming delegations of Russian special services, which are dying to cooperate with it. At the end of the day these cents are useful to the CIA for solving what might be called traditional problems.

Two Servicemen Killed by Mine in Yugoslavia

LD2201044093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The battalion of Russian blue helmets in Yugoslavia has incurred its first irreversible loss. Two Russian servicemen were blown up on Thursday by a mine in the southern part of the sector under the battalion's control. One of them died and the other was injured. ITAR-TASS notes that this is already the second instance of Russian servicemen serving as part of the UN forces in Serbian lands in Croatia being blown up by a mine. Last autumn, three Russian soldiers were injured.

Article Speculates on Primakov's Recent Belgrade Visit

PM2001131593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jan 93 p 3

["Own Information" report: "Intelligence Chief's Secret Mission"]

[Text] A certain aura of mystery always surrounds intelligence activity. A detached observer can give free rein to his

wild imagination on learning even a snippet of information stamped "secret," or on obtaining information worthy of Sherlock Holmes' deductive method.

We have now learned from journalists accredited in Yugoslavia that Ye. Primakov, leader of Russian foreign intelligence, visited Belgrade recently. Because this visit was not covered in the press, we will allow ourselves to indulge in some fantasies.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic talked with Primakov. About what? Ask something a little easier. Here is a thought that comes to mind: The January trip to Belgrade attests to a change in Russia's approach to Serbia. Evidently, not everyone in the Russian leadership likes the position of those who share the Western viewpoint on the need for a military solution to the problem.

Incidentally, did you notice that the chief of Russian intelligence also visited China before Yeltsin's successful visit to that country?

The Russian president is planning a trip to India at the end of January, which also promises a breakthrough in Russian-Indian relations. We learn from THE HINDUSTAN TIMES that Delhi has already been visited by—who would you think?—the same Academician Primakov. Naturally, he could not have made any of these trips without the sanction of the Russian Federation president.

Now the chief of the Yasenevo headquarters has made another trip abroad. This time to Belgrade. Instead of drawing conclusions, let us confine ourselves just to a cautious assumption: Does this trip not attest to coming changes in Russia's Balkan policy?

Foreign Ministry Official on Bosnian Serb Decision

LD2001201893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1950 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 20 TASS—A Russian Foreign Ministry official has welcomed Bosnian Serbs' decision to support the principles of Bosnia's constitutional system proposed by one of the co-chairmen of the coordinating committee for former Yugoslavia.

The official described the decision as an "important and positive element" in the development of the situation in former Yugoslavia which provides a way for further work towards achieving a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

He called on all sides involved to "show maximum responsibility at this crucial moment for the peoples of this republic and not to miss the opportunity to reach peace."

He stressed the need to intensify work in Geneva, directing the efforts of the world community towards providing support to the activities of the co-chairmen in order to reach immediate ceasefire and sign the whole package of documents that are being discussed there."

Further on Mongolian President's Visit

LD2101175793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1732 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kim Boldokhonov]

[Text] Moscow January 21 TASS—The official visit of the Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat ended with a ceremonial seeing off in the Georgian Hall of the Kremlin. The head of the Mongolian state was here at the invitation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

During the first Russo-Mongolian summit talks were held between the leaders of the two countries, and fundamental documents were signed, including a treaty of friendly relations and cooperation between Russia and Mongolia and a number of intergovernmental agreements.

Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat held talks with the Russian Parliament speaker, Ruslan Khasbulatov.

The talks between the two presidents covered a wide range of bilateral cooperation issues in political, economic and humanitarian spheres.

It is known, that with the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, with which Mongolia over several decades maintained all kinds of ties, due to objective and subjective reasons of a transfer towards a market economy, cooperation between the two countries lately had sharply decreased, and in some spheres had come to a standstill. This negatively told upon the national economy of Mongolia and the social life of the Mongolian society. The talks, as admitted by both sides, served as an important starting-point in the unbindment of knotty problems of Russo-Mongolian relations and as a mile-stone for their further development. The intergovernmental documents signed in the course of the visit included trade and economic coopearation agreements for the year 1993, agreements on mutual payments and customs and other documents. They were worked out with a clear-cut mechanism of raising their efficiency. In particular, together with state enterprises it was decided to more actively include business and commercial structures in bilateral economic cooperation.

Another result of the summit was a joint communique by the two presidents, expressing deep regret over the the victims of Stalin's repressions, which did a colossal damage to the peoples of both countries. The presidents affirmed that all measures should be taken to restore the historical truth of those crimes and to avoid the reoccurrence of anything similar to that. On the eve of the visit the Mongolian Embassy in Moscow was handed over 20 secret documents from the Russian archives, until now held in secret, about the persecutions and arrests of Mongolian leaders in the USSR in the Thirties.

Summing up the talks with Boris Yeltsin and his visit to Moscow as a whole, Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat held them in high esteem. The head of the Mongolian state in an interview with ITAR-TASS emphasised the special significance of the bilateral treaty which created a fundament of principally new mutual relations.

From now on Mongolia and Russia will develop cooperation on principles of equality, mutual benefit and with due regard of national interests of each side, he noted.

We agreed to draft bilateral agreements in the spheres of education, health, science and technology, culture and other spheres of social life. This work has almost begun. During the visit leaders of a number of ministries and departments of the two countries held business meetings.

Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat invited Boris Yeltsin to pay an official visit to Mongolia which was received with gratitude.

Ochirbat Views Ties With Khasbulatov

LD2101154893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1412 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow January 21 TASS—Mongolia has no closed spheres for cooperation with Russia, said Mongolian President Punsalmagiyn Ochirbat during a meeting with Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov at the Russian legislature on Thursday.

The Mongolian leader expressed satisfaction with his ongoing visit to Moscow and documents signed in the Russian capital. He stressed that the Russian legislature greatly contributed to the successful development of Mongolian-Russian relations.

"We have every opportunity to increase them in all spheres, including the economy, politics, science, culture and the humanitarian field," Ochirbat noted.

"We treat Mongolia and its people with great sympathy," Khasbulatov said. "We hold dear our traditional relations which have been developing for long and which should not be forgotten."

Grachev Ends French Visit, Notes Closer Cooperation

LD2001222493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2124 GMT 20 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Kuleshov]

[Text] Paris January 20 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev ended his official visit to France on Wednesday. At the Orly Airport Grachev expressed deep satisfaction with the results of his three-day visit to France.

"The visit was a success. We have fully carried out the tasks set for the visit," Grachev told ITAR-TASS. He said that an agreement was signed with French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe on mutual contacts between the Russian and French Ministries of Defence for 1993. The agreement envisages the exchange of delegations, training of Russian servicemen in France and French servicemen in Russia, and arranging various seminars and lectures. An agreement was reached to expand a programme of contacts for 1994-1995 and hold joint commandment and tactical exercises at a company-battalion level.

During the visit the French demonstrated their intention to develop more close cooperation with Russia, Grachev said. He mentioned that he visited units of land troops, the 11th air-paratrooper battalion in Toulouse. Paratroopers carried out show exercises and displayed their high skills and a good professional level. According to Grachev, the military equipment of this battalion meets international requirements and some types of the armoury can be taken over by Russian air paratroopers or mobile troops.

Grachev said that he had invited the French defence minister to pay an official visit to Russia which is expected to take place next year.

In conclusion Grachev noted that the visit was another step forward on the way to more close Russian-French cooperation.

Lectures at Military School

PM2101145793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Jan 93 p 1

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Kuleshov report: "Trip Around the Country"]

[Excerpt] Paris, 19 Jan—[passage omitted] The Russian minister [Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian minister of defense] today left for a tour of the country. The first stop on his route is the Air Force base at Reims where Pavel Grachev will visit the legendary "Normandie Neman" squadron.

On the previous day the Russian minister delivered a lecture at the Ecole Militaire—the Higher Military School—to an audience of students from a number of military educational institutions and representatives of the military command, in which he set out the basic provisions of the doctrine and conceptual approaches to building the Russian Armed Forces.

The positive changes that have occurred in relations with leading Western countries, the minister noted, stem primarily from the democratic transformations in our country and the pursuit of radical economic reforms, and also from the elimination of ideological conflict and the cuts in nuclear and conventional weapons. As a result of the major changes in the international political situation in the world, the threat of nuclear and conventional war has been lifted.

The minister described the START II Treaty signed by Russia and the United States as "an event of great common human significance." In its scale and importance, this document surpasses all other treaties on disarmament issues that have ever been signed and will become the pivotal guarantee of global security, he noted. By making the transition to a low level of nuclear weapons development, Russia and the United States are also entitled to expect the other nuclear powers—France, Britain, and China—to join the talks process in the foreseeable future.

For many decades our relations with France have been fairly warm, Pavel Grachev said. They are being developed along the path of extending ties in extremely diverse areas, including the military. At the same time we have had, do have, and probably will have certain differences of opinion in our assessment of the development of the international situation and the methods needed to resolve possible conflict situations in various regions of the world. At the same time we should not place too much stress on our current disagreements. Today we are seeking a path of constructive dialogue with France and the path of mutual understanding and building confidence, the minister stressed. [passage omitted]

Further on Visit

LD2001092793 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Video report by correspondent Yevgeniy Lukyanov, incorporating statement by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, in Paris on 19 January; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] For the first time since 1912, a Russian defense minister—Army General Pavel Grachev—has arrived in France on a visit. Thus, Russian-French relations in the military sphere, which go back a long way and have been very close at certain times this century, have been naturally continued. This was precisely what was said at the meetings and talks between our minister and his French colleague, Pierre Joxe. When they were over, at the French Defense Ministry, in General de Gaulle's working study, where he returned on 25 August 1944 on the day of the liberation of Paris, at his desk, both ministers put their signatures to an agreement between the two defense ministries on mutual contacts for this year. Pierre Joxe stressed the symbolic nature of this act.

[Begin Grachev recording] I believe our talks were successful, and a very good and very positive document was signed. This was stated, first and foremost, by the French side—they proposed that for the 1994-95 period contacts should be considerably broadened, including the staging of joint exercises. In addition, I made a proposal that joint command post exercises or headquarters exercises at the level of the French General Staff and the Russian Federation General Staff should be held in 1994-95. [end recording]

The Russian minister visited the burial vault of Napoleon I at Les Invalides, where the ashes of the emperor have lain since 1840 in a tomb made of Karelian porphyry. The military school in Paris where he studied is also linked with the name of the little corporal. Pavel Grachev told its students about the progress of military reform in the Russian Armed Forces.

France Grants Fr1.6 Billion Credit for Grain Purchase

PM2101112593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jan 93 p 5

[M. Chikin report: "French Grain in the Motherland's Granaries"]

[Text] Last week Michel Sapin, French minister of economy and finance, announced that Russia had been given an opportunity to purchase 2.2 million tonnes of grain and 300,000 tonnes of barley. The deal is worth 1.6 billion francs—more than $300 million. A foreign trade insurance company is guaranteeing this contract for French experts [as published]. In the event of the deal falling through, it will pay 95 percent of the agreed sum. Interestingly, a year ago there were not enough high guarantees like this one for French entrepreneurs.

Of course, the modification of calculations is by no means provoked by altruism. Trade disputes between the United States and France are at their height, and one of the contentious issues is the sale of grain. Seeing that the Americans are not allowing the French into their market, the latter are looking in other directions.

A more propitious moment for turning to the East could not have been chosen. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the suspension of deliveries of U.S. grain to Russia on credit, since the latter has not paid off its previous credits. Here, incidentally, sober and well-considered calculation was not dispensed with on our side. We have paid the French for last year's credits and those of the previous year. This was the decisive sign for the French Government, and, therefore, for the insurance company, and they at once unblocked the new credit line.

Well, the French have remained in funds. We have shown everyone that we can not only take, but also repay loans. And the Americans are thinking about softening their stance.

Thus on the Russian market now 10 percent of grain is controlled by the French, and 38 percent by the Americans. According to the assessments of local experts, exports of grain to Russia are due to be reduced somewhat. In the opinion of French specialists, this is caused by the good harvest gathered in the CIS, especially in Russia and Ukraine. Purchases of grain from other countries will also fall—according to preliminary estimates, we will be importing 30 million, not 37 million tonnes a year.

Shokhin: Russia 'Should Not Sign' CIS Charter

LD1901173693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1715 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—"Russia, as well as other CIS states, should not sign the charter of the Commonwealth at the CIS summit in Minsk on January 22", Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin told reporters on Tuesday.

The draft charter gives member-states a year to sign it, including ratification in parliament. Thus, the approval of the charter in Minsk will only signal the beginning of the process of joining it in the legal framework existing in every CIS state, he explained.

Shokhin does not expect any dramatic developments at the summit. "Neither a new organisation will be created, nor the Commonwealth will collapse", he said, adding that "Ukraine will not be able to initiate any dramatic steps".

The Minsk summit will begin the formation of a new legal structure of the Commonwealth which will last for a year. Even if the Russian delegation does not go to Minsk, it would not impede Russia from joining the charter the next day, according to the deputy prime minister.

Shokhin believes such a "soft" scheme of joining the charter is the correct one as it allows parliaments to participate in the process. Among the most serious Commonwealth problems Shokhin listed trade and economic relations, as well as credit and monetary issues in 1993. He spoke in favour of creating an interstate bank of the Commonwealth "which is to act as a clearing chamber at the first stage".

Moscow, Ukraine Fail To Agree on Soviet External Debt

LD1901182493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1749 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—Russia and Ukraine failed to agree on the form of paying the former Soviet external debt at the recent Russian-Ukrainian summit in Moscow and consultations will continue, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin told a press conference on Tuesday.

Earlier he said that Ukraine insisted on independent payments of its share of the debt and that the variant was unacceptable for Paris and London Club of creditors whose representatives were invited to participate in the talks.

"No final decision was adopted. Consultations will continue between Russia, Ukraine and the creditors", he said.

Speaking on illegal export of hard currency from Russia, Sergey Glazyev, the minister for foreign economic relations, told the press conference that the outflow comprised from two to five billion dollars over the last two years.

He said that reports about 300 billion dollars are ungrounded and are aimed to raise the risk of granting credits to Russia and, consequently, the interest rate.

The outflow of capital became possible because of poor customs control and the money may be brought back only in case of economic stabilisation in the country, according to Glazyev.

He added that the money is used for "shadow" economy in Russia.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Romanian CIS Stand

LD1901160693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1521 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Ryabikin and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—The Commonwealth of Independent States in no way presupposes the restoration of structures of the former Soviet Union. All CIS member-states, being independent sovereign countries, independently tackle the whole range of their relations both within the Commonwealth framework and with third states, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing here today.

The statement was made in response to a [word indistinct] interview of the Romanian foreign minister of January 16, when the official sharply spoke of his country's attitude to prospects for Moldova's joining of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

According to the information the Russian Foreign Ministry has, the interview once again tried to dictate the Republic of Moldova their conditions and expressed negative attitude of the Romanian side to CIS countries' efforts on creation of the Commonwealth. The very Commonwealth is characterized as a body allegedly restoring structures of the former Soviet Union and threatening to the independence and the very existence of the Republic of Moldova.

"We believe such pronouncements do not contribute to the development of normal constructive relations between Romania and friendly sovereign states, which are members of the Commonwealth," stressed the Russian Foreign Ministry representative.

Besides, the aim of a country's gaining of independence is to act on its own will and not on someone's dictate, recalled Sergey Yastrzhembskiy. "Does Romania forget Moldova is an independent sovereign state, which can independently decide on its relations with the world? We are for sovereign and stable Moldova to determine by itself its way into future, but we are against any interference in CIS affairs, which directly concern Russian interests," the official stressed in conclusion.

Yeltsin, Tajik Leader Discuss Cooperation, Treaty

LD2101195093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1831 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—A meeting took place in the Kremlin today between Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and Imamali Rakhmonov, chairman of Tajikistan's Supreme Soviet. The Russian leader congratulated Imamali Rakhmonov on being elected chairman of the Tajikistan parliament and expressed satisfaction over his energetic efforts to restore legality and to introduce order in the republic. This has been reported by the press service of the president of the Russian Federation.

Having noted positive advances in that area, the sides at the same time expressed mutual concern in connection with the fact that a significant section of Tajikistan's territory remains under the control of illegal armed formations.

Boris Yeltsin and Imamali Rakhmonov, having emphasized the striving of the two countries to deepen cooperation, expressed the intention to sign a treaty in February this year on cooperation between the Russian Federation and Tajikistan. The sides exchanged views on questions concerned with the forthcoming meeting of CIS heads of states, and also on other problems of mutual interest.

Yeltsin, Hungary's Antall Discuss Relations Over Phone

LD2101195193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1824 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow January 21 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a telephone conversation with Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall late on Thursday to discuss bilateral relations and the implementation of agreements reached during the visit of the Russian president to Hungary last November, the presidential press service reported.

On Thursday the Russian Parliament suspended the ratification of the Russian-Hungarian friendship treaty after lawmakers clashed over the article which denounced Soviet interference in Hungary in 1956.

The presidential press service said that Yeltsin and Antall also discussed the settlement of the Yugoslavian crisis.

New Black Sea Fleet Commander To Join Navy 24 Jan

LD2001131293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1240 GMT 20 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 20 TASS—Eduard Baltin, the newly- appointed commander of the Black Sea Fleet, is expected to arrive to the disputed Navy on January 24, TASS learned from well-informed sources in the Black Sea Fleet headquarters.

Baltin was chosen as a compromise by the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, although the Ukrainian defence minister opposes his appointment.

Baltin is known as a noted expert in command of nuclear submarines.

"My task is to avoid confrontation on local level", Baltin said referring to the Russian-Ukrainian dispute over the fleet.

Talks With India Prepare Way for Yeltsin Visit

LD2001214893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2008 GMT 20 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Karmelitov for TASS]

[Text] New Delhi January 20 TASS—The first round of Russian- Indian talks held in New Delhi on Wednesday completes preparations for an official visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. These talks confirmed the mutual desire of India and Russia to raise the level of bilateral relations.

Co-chairman of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation, First Russian Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko and Indian Minister of Finance Manmohan Singh and members of the delegations of both countries are taking part in the negotiations.

The talks focused on the correlation between the rouble and the rupee used by India in the repayment of credits granted to it by the former Soviet Union.

During the talks Shumeyko pointed out that Russia was attaching great importance to economic cooperation with India and expressed the hope for its dynamic and fruitful development.

In return, Manmohan Singh noted the importance of using of the potential of close and mutually advantageous relations which had connected Russia and India for decades and which are currently carrying out radical economic reforms.

Later in the day Shumeyko met with Indian Defence Minister Sharad Pawar. During the meeting the sides discussed questions of mutual interest, including the prospects of military-technical contacts between the two countries.

Yeltsin Meets Indian Envoy Before Visit to New Delhi

LD1901213193 Moscow Teleradiok mpaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Report by German Solomatin; from the "Novosti" program]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin received Indian Ambassador Ranendra Sena in the Kremlin today. It was pointed out in the conversation that the Russian leadership attaches great significance to the first visit by a Russian president to India in the history of Russian-Indian relations. Boris Yeltsin informed the Indian ambassador that preparations for this visit are being completed and expressed the hope that the visit will be a successful one with no surprises. Russia sees India as a friendly country and there are no unresolved problems in Russian-Indian relations.

The Russian president also noted that the forthcoming visit should play an important role in the development of

relations on a bilateral basis and in improving the international situation as a whole.

Kunadze: 'Special Status' for India Impossible

OW2101015393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to India, which is set to begin January 27, "can be called, without exaggeration, one of the most important events in foreign policy life," said Russia's deputy minister of foreign affairs, Georgy Kunadze.

Appearing Wednesday at hearings in the Russian Supreme Soviet, he said the former USSR maintained special relations with India for many years, as it considered India "practically its only Asian ally in the struggle against American imperialism and Chinese hegemony." Kunadze stressed that friendly relations between India and Russia, which has emerged as the USSR's successor, "should be maintained and developed, but special status [for India] in the future is out of the question."

He added, "it is vital that ties with other Asian nations, especially with Pakistan, be improved to the level of Russian-Indian relations."

Kunadze reminded participants in the parliamentary hearings that after the START-2 treaty goes into effect it will be impossible to avoid the issue of getting other countries with nuclear weapons to join the disarmament process. He said that "Russia's and India's views on this issue do not yet coincide."

A complete report will be published in the Diplomatic Panorama and IF [INTERFAX] releases on January 21.

Shokhin Signs Several Agreements With Turkmenistan

OW1901223593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1958 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian government is giving its consent for the Central Bank to grant Turkmenistan technical credit on trade payments. In the first quarter of 1993 the credit will amount to 20bn [billion] rubles. Moscow and Ashkhabad agreed Tuesday on monetary and credit relations for 1993 and on debt obligations for 1992. Unpaid debts will have to be reformulated by April 15 into the inter-governmental credit. The agreements were signed by Vice Premiers Aleksandr Shokhin and Nazar Suyunov.

The parties also signed a protocol for an intergovernmental free trade agreement.

In response to questions from journalists, Shokhin said that during negotiations they discussed problems in supplies of cotton to Russia and oil to Turkmenistan and brought up the issue of long-term projects in gas exports. Suyunov explained that they are considering building a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Western Europe. He said Ashgabat kept 1993's quotas on gas exports to Western Europe at the same level as last year's.

West's Concern Over Weapons Ties With Iran Viewed

PM2001092993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Jan 93 First Edition p 7

[Aleksey Bausin "Viewpoint": "A Submarine Is Easy To Find, You Can't Hide It in the Persian Gulf: Why the West Does Not Want Russia To Sell Arms to Iran"]

[Text] The mass media in the West increasingly mention Iran as a front-rank disturber of the "new world order." The case is made still worse by the fact that, in their opinion, the new "evil empire" with its capital in Tehran has a... helper. And that helper is democratic Russia.

Western politicians' disquiet is caused not simply by the relations of the two countries as such but by a wholly specific aspect of them, namely the sale of Russian arms to its partner from the south. The press periodically cites figures with multiple zeros, which are intended to symbolize the Russian military-industrial complex' earnings from the sale of various Sukhoys, MIGs, armored vehicles, and so forth. But one of Tehran's most recent acquisitions has caused a real commotion in various capitals of the world. On 23 November 1992 a diesel-powered submarine entered the service of the Iranian Navy after crossing the thousands of miles that separate the Russian shipyards from the Iranian port of Bandar-e 'Abbas. Iran is now the first state in the Persian Gulf region to possess any kind of submarine fleet.

Experts immediately started working out the various ways in which the submarine could be used. The Strait of Hormuz, where the Iranian Navy's new acquisition will probably be employed, is only 47 kilometers wide with an average depth of 70 meters. More than half the oil extracted in the world is conveyed through that transport route. Specialists note that, with such means at its disposal, Iran could take complete control of the entrance to the Persian Gulf in a crisis situation.

There is another way of looking at it, however; namely that the significance of the submarine should not be exaggerated, as a well-organized system of logistical support plus naval reconnaissance aircraft and modern communications systems are essential if it is to be used to the full in combat operations. To which one could add the comment of Rear Admiral 'Abbas Mohtaj, deputy commander of the Iranian Navy: "It is surprising that they should make such a fuss over one submarine when there are more than 60 Western warships in the waters of the Gulf."

Official American representatives constantly voice their "concern" at the growth in Tehran's military might. In October 1992 the U.S. Senate passed an amendment to the 1993 foreign aid bill linking aid (except humanitarian aid) to Russia to the cessation of Russian-Iranian military technical cooperation. The fact that pressure is being

exerted on Moscow has been acknowledged by Aleksandr Shokhin, vice premier of the Russian Government. He took part in an international conference on problems of aid to the new independent states (that is to say, the CIS) held in Tokyo last October. The deputy chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers stated at the time in an ITAR-TASS interview that the West's promises to support Russia often come with various political strings attached—be it speeding up the withdrawal of troops from the Baltic region, ending the special relationship with Cuba, or stopping the sale of submarines to Iran. It should be borne in mind, the vice premier noted, that a great deal is demanded of us while we are offered very little in exchange. The losses incurred by curtailing cooperation with Iran would be far greater.

"The exaggerated attention paid to the problem of submarines is caused either by inadequate knowledge and understanding of our approaches to the arms trade in the region or a deliberate attempt to remove a potential competitor from a large market. We stick precisely to the principle of maintaining the existing balance of forces. Moreover, no one questions any state's right to ensure its own security," one diplomat who deals with the problems of the Near East region stressed in conversation with your correspondent.

While concern was being expressed in Washington over the sale of a Russian submarine to Iran, George Bush was speaking at an airfield near the headquarters of one of the Pentagon's biggest contractors, General Dynamics. The president announced the lifting of a ban on supplying the latest F-16 fighter-bombers to Taiwan. This would secure, according to the president, the jobs of around 10,000 people in the States of Texas, Connecticut, and California, where these combat aircraft are manufactured. And during his election visit to Saint Louis, where F-15s—one of the world's most modern fighters—are assembled at the plants of the McDonnell Douglas arms corporation, Bush announced plans to sell 72 planes to Saudi Arabia. Those statements produced a sharp reaction from those countries whose safety could be threatened as a result of the conclusion of these deals.

The struggle to win arms markets will continue, that is obvious. The United States sells weapons to provide work for many hundreds of thousands of potential voters. Russia does so to try to cope somehow with the economic crisis. But there is one little problem. Moscow has announced its desire to join the family of civilized peoples. The view held on certain problems of international life by members of that family can be very different from the Russian viewpoint. For example, Iran firmly maintains an "enfant terrible" reputation in the eyes of America—it supports international terrorism, has annexed three islands in the Persian Gulf, and is even, apparently, developing its own nuclear weapons.

What will Russian diplomacy do if one fine day the United States day raises in earnest with Moscow, for example, the question of stopping military cooperation with Iran? Will it enter into conflict with the West for the sake of honoring its treaty commitments to Tehran? Or will it accept the logic of the members of the "civilized club"?

World Bank To Give Government $2 Billion Credit

OW1901172893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1444 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the World Bank's Moscow office, Ardiy Stoutjesdijk, said on Monday [18 Jan] the bank is considering granting Russia three credits this year, namely for the oil industry, agriculture, and long-term programs. Speaking at a press conference in Moscow, Stoutjesdijk said the total amount of the credits may reach $1.7-1.8 Bn [billion]. The oil industry credit may be ready by April, the other two by May.

The oil industry credit, approximately $500 Mn [million], is aimed to modernize the industry, in particular to re-equip it and repair pipelines. One of the conditions for giving it is attraction of foreign capital investment for the project.

The purpose of the agricultural credit, also about $500 Mn, is to enable Russia to buy seed, fertilizers, and machinery spares abroad, help private enterprise in agriculture, and introduce anti-monopoly measures in the agricultural market.

The long-term program credit may amount to some $35 Mn.

Apart from that, the World Bank will apparently consider giving Russia a loan of between 400 and 500 million dollars to help it solve its ecological problems. Stoutjesdijk did not specify, however, when this credit will be given.

The Russian government must guarantee all the three credits, Stoutjesdijk said. He expressed satisfaction with the fact that many of the former cabinet's members have kept their posts.

Kozyrev Appears on New TV Program's First Broadcast

OW1901130793 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 0725 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Interview with Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev by M.A. Ogorodnikov; from the "Veritelnaya Gramota" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ogorodnikov] The crew of the new program "Veritelnaya Gramota" [Diplomatic Credentials], at the direction of the Inter State Television Programs, is today working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia. We have come here for a meeting with Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev, the minister of this department who is premiering this program. It will inform viewers of the activities of ambassadors, permanent representatives of various states in Moscow, and Russian representatives abroad. Diplomats and politicians will answer correspondents' and

viewers' questions. Today is the first broadcast; the premiere of the "Veritelnaya Gramota" program titled, "Vstrecha s Ministrom" [Meeting with the Minister].

[Ogorodnikov] Andrey Vladimirovich, it is in here that the foreign policies of such a state as Russia are, if not fulfilled, then at least launched—and what dignitaries have graced this place? The whole atmosphere is such that even I feel intimidated.

The reason we asked you to meet with us is that we are beginning a series of broadcasts titled "Veritelnaya Gramota." We want to cover the activities of embassies in today's independent states, the former republics of the Soviet Union, and it is a great honor for us that you agreed to open this broadcast. Tell us please, now that there are new embassies opening and new ambassadors arriving, how are things developing between the Russian MID [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] and the new embassies?

[Kozyrev] Do you mean the new embassies from countries of the CIS?

[Ogorodnikov] Yes, the CIS countries.

[Kozyrev] As a rule, we have very close relations with them, along with embassies from the so-called traditional states, or the far abroad. The ministers, particularly the deputy ministers and chiefs of the corresponding territorial departments, have very good relations, sometimes even personal ones.

With CIS states, as a rule, we generally have even warmer, friendlier relations. We have decided to exclude some formalities from the protocol practice. Usually, the minister does not attend protocol functions, even when they concern national days, and so on, and it is on very rare occasions that a minister attends protocol functions such as dinners, or some kind of reception in honor of a national day. However, with the CIS states we have agreed to exclude this. Now, contrary to normal protocol, I make it a rule to try and attend such receptions, even for a short time, to emphasize the special character of our relations, and to help them to get on their feet wherever possible, set matters right, and so on. And, of course, one of the features is that many of these people are long acquainted with Moscow, know many people here, and decide many issues on the basis of these old direct contacts. They telephone direct, and many here use the old boy network [vertushka].

[Ogorodnikov] Are there such instances?

[Kozyrev] Yes. Particularly those of which the Western embassies are deprived. They simply do not know what a network is, but our people do. Let's say a person has worked in the Council of Ministers, or in some industrial department of the Central Committee of the CPSU, they naturally easily find friends and resolve these issues more like a proprietor than an ambassador. That is why in embassy work, our mutual relations have their own character, but at the same time they are being built on the basis of complete and unreserved respect for their status, independence, sovereignty, and so on.

[Ogorodnikov] How do the Russian ambassadors feel, being in the former republics?

[Kozyrev] Each one differently. Of course, the establishment of these new relations is not progressing simply and smoothly. Not simply, because generally I imagine it is perhaps not easy to become psychologically accustomed to being an ambassador of a foreign power, let's say in Riga, for example; particularly for many of us who have become accustomed to going there for holidays, have friends there, and generally know the city not as a foreigner, but as a compatriot. In a word, there must be psychological difficulties, and there are problems connected with economic difficulties, shortages of all kinds. We have great difficulties in the market, the prices are very high, and one cannot purchase everything. Not all the issues can be resolved yet. The economy is still not a market one, and therefore they must be resolved through the Council of Ministers, or some other body. The machinery is still the same, in general, and there are masses of technical details. And finally there is the disorganization, because this is a new thing. That is the difference between us and them.

They, in fact, are basing themselves upon an existing infrastructure, and many have retained the same people who were the republican representatives at the USSR Cabinet of Ministers. They have the premises, the motor cars, the people and so on. But we do not have anything, because Moscow did not have representation, so we have to do everything from scratch. In Kiev, until recently the embassy was located in a hotel. They have now leased some premises, but these are not permanent. And there is Bishkek, where I personally took part in opening. The embassy is quite a good, large building...

[Ogorodnikov, interrupting] We televised it.

[Kozyrev] Yes, you were there. This is the process of establishment. But then a building is just a building, and one has to live in it and all sorts of equipment has to be installed. Of course, funding was also delayed, and you might remember that this issue was repeatedly raised in the Supreme Soviet, in the government, and the money for the establishment of embassies and to pay the wages of staff was only decided last summer. The paradox of the situation is that although our foreign policy was given priority, it was the least provided for materially and technically, particularly at first. In some Latin American, Asian, or African countries—all countries are dear to us—where nothing in particular is going on at present and relations are progressing normally, we have everything—embassies, motor cars, diplomatic staff who know the language and the local conditions, operational communications. Here, where everything is happening in our republics, and where we need everything at once, that is exactly what we do not have. That is why, sometimes, it is far easier to criticize, and say, you missed the opportunity to improve relations. Well, one could say that, but one could also proceed from the simple reality that we are starting from scratch.

Moscow did not have an embassy or a consulate in Bishkek or Kiev, there were no legal bases. Now we have to make

up for it. We could not do it earlier. How could one open an embassy within the Soviet Union ahead of time? We could not do it, so now we have to do it on the run.

I think the situation is sufficiently complicated that we need to send our best people to these embassies. As a rule, these are very experienced and knowledgeable people, enthusiasts, because they are not going there for easy money [dlinyy rubl]. Embassy salaries, in the majority of CIS countries, are yet another paradox. They are probably among the most complicated diplomatic missions, but wages are paid within the framework of the ruble zone. At a time...

[Ogorodnikov] In our time, the concept of easy money [laughing] if you will pardon me, is decidedly relative.

[Kozyrev] Yes, it is, but let's talk frankly. Diplomats such as these—and I repeat, we send only the best to the CIS countries—get paid in foreign currency when stationed in Africa, Latin America, or Europe. They do not get much, but it makes a difference when compared with the easy money. By any standards these people are more enthusiasts than hired hands. They are professionals and, generally, I do think their job is easy.

[Ogorodnikov] You mentioned that our former republics are a priority in the Russian foreign policy. While on business trips, I often hear the opinion that Russia is losing the status it once had. How valid is this claim? I have heard such opinions in Bishkek, Alma-Ata, and Tashkent.

[Kozyrev] I have also heard such arguments, and often considered what was behind them. I think it is an inherent paradox of our present situation, and a mixture of two very powerful emotions. On the one hand, the republics passionately wanted independence. If you ask them now, as we often do, how do you feel about strengthening the CIS, making it tighter? How about a confederation or a federation? We are willing to accept any option, the reaction—at least the official reaction—will be negative.

They will say, no, we do not need this. They might even get suspicious and say, see how they talk now, they want to herd us into a federation again. So, on the one hand, we are dealing with the need to protect and guard one's independence, and a fear of any central structures. This is especially evident in the Ukraine, but it exists in other places too. On the other hand there is a sense of loss which we all share, both here in Russia and Moscow and over there too. These two emotions exist side by side.

What do they mean: Russia is losing its status? When has it had any? Only within the framework of the Soviet Union. But was this really the status of Russia? Or was it just a single state with its own disadvantages which everyone was running from? It also had advantages, which people are afraid to lose. Therefore, I think that it would be more accurate to say that the disintegration of this big state and the advantages of independence have a downside as far as the loss of certain connections is concerned. So what does it boil down to? First, practically all the republics except the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] used to get subventions when they were part of the Soviet Union. Naturally, there is a sense of loss here. We still extend help, but nowadays it takes the form of a loan, and since these are independent states and it is expensive to be independent, we probably should switch to international accounting—in other words, not like relations within a single state but more like relations between independent states, mutually profitable and based on foreign currency. Naturally, they do not like it, and it causes feelings of confusion and great loss. Even such...

[Ogorodnikov, interrupting] Should Russia pay for their sovereignty?

[Kozyrev] On the one hand, they want to be independent. On the other hand, the loss of subventions or the supply of petroleum at very special prices whenever they asked for it—all this causes a feeling [changes thought] this is one of the examples they will always give you to demonstrate that Russia is deserting them and losing its status.

Now, the independent states want to be independent, and protect their distinctiveness and independence. At the same time, many encounter problems when they are unable to ensure their own safety. So they want to have Russian border troops, and sometimes they just want Russian troops to remain. But they do not want to pay for it. This is their psychology. On the one hand, they seem to want to live as in the former Soviet Union, when border troops and armed forces were stationed there and ensured complete security. On the other hand, they want to be independent, and when they remember that they are independent, they criticize Russia for trying to reestablish central control and the single state, and for forcing conditions on them. Minutes later they remember that they have to survive economically and protect their borders, something they can not do without Russia, and a whole new topic is embarked upon: Russia has deserted us, Russia is leaving us and losing its status. Unfortunately, we are going to be in this climate for some time.

The worst thing about our position are the pseudo patriots, who gamble on the situation. One can gamble endlessly because this is a real situation. On the one hand, the republics have an independent mentality, but on the other hand, they have a mentality of dependence on Russia. But gambles will give us nothing as far as relations with these states are concerned. However, we probably need to gain something from it in the sphere of good neighborly relations and in terms of a new partnership with these states.

[Ogorodnikov] Andrey Vladimirovich, do we have any imperialistic intentions toward them?

[Kozyrev] We? Who?

[Ogorodnikov] Well, maybe you. I will address the question to you. You have signed a treaty with the United States. Did you consult the independent states?

[Kozyrev] I can say that we have, to the extent that it was appropriate, and I would even say by a little more. The thing is, the START II [SNV II] treaty you are referring to has no connection with the independent states, because the nuclear arms stationed on the territories of Ukraine,

Kazakhstan and Belarus have to be destroyed in their entirety in accordance with the START I [SNV I] treaty which they have ratified, and which they are fulfilling in cooperation with us—and we are in constant touch with them. The START II treaty goes much further that START I, but the weapons reduction cycle has no connection to the previously mentioned arms, which is the reason why this is a strictly bilateral treaty between Russia and the United States. Nevertheless, both before the signing of a framework agreement in the summer, and after it, we informed the independent states in the most detailed way, both at the expert level and through an (?open) document I sent. Also, Boris Nikolayevich specifically informed them at one of the CIS sessions.

Once we had signed the treaty, I again sent letters to the foreign ministers, and today our delegation, which consists of the very same people, the experts who have taken part in the Geneva and other talks, has already departed for the republics who have agreed to accept it—after all, we can not force anyone to accept it. They will conduct the most detailed talks and discussions. Thus, we really go a little further than is the norm in international practice, but then again, we take the special relationship into account.

[Ogorodnikov] The concept of Eurasia is increasingly present in our lives. The late Lev Gumilev [not further identified] wrote about it, and [words indistinct] also talk about it.

[Kozyrev] Yes.

[Ogorodnikov] Is there a foreign policy concept in relation to this region of Russia?

[Kozyrev] The Eurasian character of the Russian state is a geopolitical fact, and many conclusions can be drawn from it. One conclusion is that there is a lot of Asia in Russia, and even that it is dominant. This argument is cited as an explanation for, say, our inability to live in open democracy, to have a dynamic market economy, and so on. This is the so called anti-Western sentiment which, in my opinion, boils down to pure defeatism. This is the equivalent of admitting one's inferiority because of a geographic fact, and saying that as most of our territory is in Asia, we are Asians in the sense of having certain Asian attributes. I reject this totally, and think that not only is this groundless...

[Ogorodnikov interrupting] There are all kinds of Asians.

[Kozyrev] Exactly. The second approach is to accept this as a geographical fact and, calmly proceeding from this basic assumption, to formulate our policy, the crux of which would be that we are in Asia, although our population is largely European, even in the Asian part of Siberia. None of this is any reason to say that we can not have a democratic political system and a dynamically developing market economy.

[Ogorodnikov] What do you expect from the Minsk meeting?

[Kozyrev] It is not the signing of treaties that I expect from the Minsk meeting. True, I think there will be between 12 and 15 treaties, as usual. Some of them will be fairly serious ones, and possibly the Ostankino treaty on cooperation of many, if not all, of the CIS states in the sphere of television will be among them—and I know that worries you. But chiefly I expect a serious and a businesslike talk, with no fanfares, on the progress we have made so far, and on what is ahead.

[Ogorodnikov] Lastly, what would you like to wish the ambassadors of the new independent states in Moscow, and to our program?

[Kozyrev] I would hope the ambassadors can work even more closely with the foreign ministry, and not dwell so much on who abandons whom and where. Rather, they should think of concrete solutions to the questions arising from our new cooperation. They will always receive our full support in this.

As to you, I would wish you not to limit yourselves to meeting ministers, but meet and introduce the ambassadors to your viewers—both our Russian ambassadors in the nearby foreign and CIS countries, and their ambassadors here. I think that neither you nor the viewers will regret it. These are very interesting people.

[Ogorodnikov] Thank you very much. That is precisely our aim.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Signs Provision on Federal Information Center

OW2201120293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin, by way of a directive of 21 January, has confirmed a provision on the structure of the Russian Federal Information Center (FITs), according to the presidential press service.

The FITs was formed in accordance with Yeltsin's 25 December decree, and is a federal organ answerable to the president.

It was established "with the goals of guaranteeing the information requirements of reform; enhancing the roll of the press, information agencies, television, and radio; and explaining state policy."

Among its main goals are: coordination of state policy toward the media, through which it explains state policy; assisting in linking the president and the government with social organizations, parties, and movements; analyzing the direction of state policy, and predicting the results of decisions made by the president and the government.

In order to fulfill its duties, the FITs may establish additional bureaus throughout Russia and overseas.

Plans for the FITs specify eight separate divisions.

The president names the head of the FITs, who may have five deputies, two of which will be first deputies.

The financing of the Center will come from the republic's budget for the support of state administrative organs, as well as from other sources.

A presidential directive on a fund for paying employees of the Center specifies it will contain a sum of 48,528,000 rubles, which will go out to the Center's 98 staff members (not including security and maintenance staff). They will be paid as employees of the presidential administration.

More detailed information will be available in Interfax's 22 January issue of Presidential Bulletin.

Parliament Accepts Draft on Information Center in Principle

OW2101184293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament has accepted the draft decree on the Federal Information Centre in principle. However, the document will not be passed proper until next Thursday [28 January] after a proposal by Mikhail Mitiukov, Chairman of the Legislative Committee. Mitiukov said that the draft had not yet passed preliminary approbation by the relevant committees and commissions.

Sergey Krasavchenko, Chairman of the Economic Reform and Property Committee, pointed out another breech of the regulations, emphasising the anonymity of the draft resolution and the absence of any argumentation of the measures proposed in it.

The draft points out the anti-constitutional nature of the formation of the Federal Information Centre and contains a request for the Legislative Committee to investigate the constitutionality of the Russian president's decree of December 25 last year on the formation of the centre. The Attorney General has been requested to investigate claims made in an interview by Mikhail Poltoranin, the head of the information centre. The interview, which was a reprint from the Italian newspaper "UNITA", was published in the "Rossiiskaya Gazeta" newspaper January 14. Poltoranin was reported as saying that parliament's leadership was, in December last year, preparing a coup. Poltoranin himself doubted the accuracy of the translation of his interview with "UNITA".

Yeltsin Decree on State Bodies To Protect Citizens' Rights

OW2201113493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1112 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin has signed a decree "On normative acts of the central bodies of state power." As the President's press-service has explained, the document aims to better safeguard the rights, freedoms, and legal interests of citizens, perfecting law regulation, and guaranteeing that the acts coincide with current legislation.

In keeping with the decree, the normative acts on civil rights, freedoms, and interests or on relations between departments passed after March 1, 1993 and registered at the RF [Russian Federation] Ministry of Justice are subject to publication in the newspaper ROSSISKIYE VESTI no later than 10 days after their registration.

Unregistered or unpublished acts are considered invalid, nor do they have any legal effects.

The RF Ministry of Justice has been instructed to see to it that official normative acts are published properly and timely.

Meeting Between Yeltsin, Tatarstan President Begins

LD2101133093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1255 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan—A meeting has begun in the Kremlin between President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian

Federation and President Mintimer Shaymiyev of Tatarstan. Preparation of a bilateral treaty between the Russian Federation and Tatarstan has been brought to a state at which, in Boris Yeltsin's words, "it cannnot proceed without the top leadership taking part." He said this when opening the meeting in which Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the government of the Russian Federation; Sergey Shakhray and Vasiliy Yarov, deputy heads of the Council of Ministers; Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet; Farid Mukhametishin, chairman of the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet; and [Tatarstan] Prime Minister Mukhammat Sabirov also took part.

Disputed Articles Omitted From Talks

LD2101175093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1639 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Aladinskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 21 TASS—The presidents of Russia and Tatarstan did not discuss the three most complicated articles of their bilateral share-power treaty during the Thursday [21 January] summit, spokesman for the Russian president Vyacheslav Kostikov told reporters, but refused to elaborate.

The presidents decided to "look for mutually acceptable solutions, moving from simple moments in the agreements to more complicated ones", he added.

Tatarstan, a republic within Russia, proclaimed state sovereignty and said it wants to base its relations with Russia on mutual agreements as an associated member of the federation. However, this is not envisaged by acting Russian constitution.

The atmosphere at the summit showed that both sides are looking for a compromise, try to avoid triggering political tensions and play into the hands of nationalistic forces.

Yeltsin and Shaymiyev agreed that they have first to settle economic relations, as well as issues of foreign economic activity and environmental protection as part of the work on the treaty, according to the official communique on the meeting.

It was noted at the summit that the relations between Russia and Tatarstan are to develop on the basis of agreements and the constitution, the document pointed out.

Both presidents positively assessed the work of experts on the treaty and reached an agreement on all the issues discussed during their meeting, the communique distributed by the press service of the Russian president said on Thursday. It gave no further details.

Economic & Agricultural Issues

Economics Ministry Drafts Stabilization Measures

OW2101214593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the instructions of First Deputy Premier, Vladimir Shumeyko, the Russian Economics Ministry has drafted a document containing a set of measures, for 1993, designed to stabilize the country's economy. The document is expected to be considered at the next government meeting and is currently being discussed by various governmental bodies.

In particular, the Economics Ministry proposes a federal economic restructuring program, for a period of time extending till 1995, as well as measures to enhance the responsibility of banks for delaying the payment of accounts for the loaded products. Differentiated quotas for the reservation of commercial banks' own funds will be introdcued to secure additional loans for investment projects.

Under the document, the Russian Central Bank would be allowed to provide credits for the conversion of defense enterprises into civilian ones. Laws enhancing responsibility for illegal strikes on transport and for violating the rules of selling goods have been envisaged.

Irrespective of the property status, textile and light-industry enterprises will be freed from compulsory sale of a part of their hard-currency incomes, if this hard currency is used for purchasing raw materials and components, and for the repayment of foreign loans.

Customs control will be established over the export of agricultural produce, food stuffs and industrial and consumer goods in order to protect the Russian consumer goods. In 1993, the subsidizing of stock breeding would be continued, and a soft credit given to the agro-industrial complex.

The branch ministries will be given the right to create extra- budget funds. Prices on the strategic goods, supplied to the CIS states, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Baltic states, will be regulated, and the procedure of fixing prices on energy and fuel, supplied to the CIS, determined.

The CIS government will draft resolutions on the principles of preventing the transportation blockade in relation to the CIS states, including blockades connected with internal and inter-state conflicts.

State allocations will be envisaged for the completion of the construction and putting into operation of vitally important projects at the expense of the Central Bank's soft credits.

Jointly with the government, the Central Bank is expected to draft proposals on improving the situation in the fuel and energy complex, including the one on re-registration of the credits extended in 1992 against the investment and basic activity, and on the provision of credits for supplying the economy and population with fuel and energy and for increasing the fuel and energy complex's circulation capital.

A soft credit will be extended to agriculture and related industries. The enterprises' hard-currency accounts used for building capacities manufacturing consumer goods and for buying raw materials and components will be unblocked.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: This document has been sent to all ministries and departments of the Russian Federation which are expected to evaluate them by January 23. Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev's explanatory note says that this plan supplements the earlier confirmed measures to implement the resolutions of the 7th congress of people's deputies.

More on Government Presidium's 20 Jan Session

PM2101152593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jan 93 pp 1, 2

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "V. Chernomyrdin Demands Specific Deeds of Members of Government"]

[Text] The key item on the agenda of the Russian Government sitting held in the Kremlin 20 January under the chairmanship of V. Chernomyrdin was the progress in fulfilling the plan of measures to implement the program for deepening the economic reform and urgent measures in financial and economic policy.

Deputy Chairman A. Chubays, who delivered the report on this question, reported that, in accordance with the government decree of August 1992 on deepening the economic reform, it was proposed to implement 152 measures. To date, however, just 55 percent of what was planned has been fulfilled. There are many reasons for this. In particular, on certain points it was necessary to adopt not government decisions or presidential edicts but laws—which takes time. On other points the ministries have not completed preparatory work or carried out coordination among various departments. The measures not carried out include the preparation of a draft law on the budget system for 1993, a proposal for a phased reduction of subsidies to food producers, a statute on forward contracting for defense orders, a program of state encouragement of exports, and others.

This sitting of the Council of Ministers Presidium was attended by deputies who, with the critical attitude typical of the White House, cast doubt on the effectiveness of individual points in the program of reforms. Chubays was told, for example, that his department is to blame for the fact that production components linked by a single manufacturing chain in the coal industry and other sectors have begun to disintegrate. In reply the chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property declared that the sectors' structure is changing in precise accordance with the Supreme Soviet decree on the privatization procedure. "Getting down to the nitty-gritty," Chubays emphasized, "I would like to say that the withdrawal of individual enterprises from vast monopolistic associations represents the end of the work for you, but for us it is the beginning."

Vice Premier B. Fedorov, who spoke next, declared that both the president and the premier have spoken of the immutability of the policy of reforms. But it is necessary to elaborate on the action program. Today it is necessary to speak of the most urgent measures. There are key problems. These are the hard ruble, the preservation of industry, and an efficient social policy. The financial and economic policy, above all, must be geared to these purposes. It is no longer possible to go back—to commands and old prices.

Many questions were put to Boris Fedorov—why do banks not transfer money in time, which production processes must be supported by the state, and so on? As a result, the speaker delivered a classic lecture on financial and economic policy, which might seem simple and natural in Britain, let us say, but just cannot get working in Russia.

Chernomyrdin made a very harsh statement on the results of the debate. "I want to understand," he said, "what will happen in three or six months or in a year's time as a result of implementing the program of urgent measures. What will happen to inflation, for today it stands at 10 percent a month, and how far will production fall. We must more quickly tackle specific deeds and get down to the grassroots level of the economy."

Other questions were also examined at the sitting.

Chernomyrdin Decree on Agricultural Crisis Anticipated

PM2101151193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Yelena Yakovleva report: "Russian Agriculture Will Be Subsidized on New Terms"]

[Text] The editorial office has learned that Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the government, is to sign a decree on urgent anticrisis measures in the agro-industrial complex in a few days' time.

The Russian Ministry of Agriculture has reported that the decree provides for the repayment of debts relating to expenditure on capital construction, the creation of a special credit line for the countryside, the extension of subsidies (439 billion rubles will be directed to these needs), etc. In addition, the decree will regulate ties between agricultural producers and processors of their output: A permanent correlation will be established between the purchase price and the retail sale price for meat combines, dairy plants, and other local monopolists.

This decree will certainly gladden collective farm chairmen and put economists on their guard, because transfusions of credit and subsidies into agriculture are

fraught with a new takeoff of inflation. Such measures are bad, but there simply are no good measures. The situation in agriculture is catastrophic, particularly in livestock raising, and so a choice has to be made between a very bad decision and simply a bad one.

From this viewpoint the future decree is somewhat reassuring, since henceforth not everything will be subsidized indiscriminately. A minimum guaranteed level of subsidies has been set, and incentive coefficients have been introduced for those farms the maintain and increase the volume of production and the number of livestock and improve output quality, i.e. subsidies are to act as incentives. Let us hope that the government will have sufficient will to abide by these terms.

Fedorov, Chubays Speak on Inflation, Privatization

PM2201100593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 1

[I. Savvateyeva report: "Fedorov and Chubays Spoke as an Alliance"]

[Text] Right, we have arrived at hyperinflation. The weekly increase in prices is 10 percent in January. Unless something changes by the end of the month, inflation will exceed the critical level.

Anatoliy Chubays and Boris Fedorov announced this at a news conference yesterday.

The actual tone in which the vice premiers expressed themselves was something of a novelty to me, however. Fedorov, without making any excuses, stated bluntly that there will be no indexation of working capital. The indiscriminate issuing of credits will stop. And broadly speaking the flood of numerous and unregulated entitlements will be significantly cut back. Enterprises counting on entitlement credits must now fulfill a number of obligations to the state—primarily with regard to limiting wages. Directors who without a twinge of conscience award themselves salaries of a million a month while contributing nothing to the budget will be targeted. They are in debt to everybody while quietly squeezing more and more handouts out of Gerashchenko. Fedorov intimated that he will enforce the Law on Bankruptcies, and very soon.

The first vice premier stressed repeatedly that the government does not intend to try to secure "an increase in production volumes." The paramount task is to stabilize finances. Before the end of the year he has promised to knock inflation down to 5 percent a month, and to reduce the budget deficit to 5 percent of GDP.

In a word, the vice premier made remarks whose emotional tone (and at times whose essence as well) was the reverse of remarks made by the premier and the director of the Central Bank. In particular, Fedorov unequivocally supported the single market ruble exchange rate. Incidentally, he did not deny that there are contradictions within the government, and he even announced that the government collegium session at which the progress of the economic reforms was examined was fairly "tense." And he advised journalists "not to entertain illusions" about reform of the economy: "This process will be lengthy and difficult."

Anatoliy Chubays also demonstrated his iron grip by stating unequivocally that the course of privatization will remain unchanged in the future, and check auctions will be held on a massive scale. He did not even mention the attempts which have become more frequent since the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies to ax check privatization in the interests of "labor collectives."

Chubays Speaks on Privatization Prospects

PM2201095193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under the general heading: "Passions Are Heated Around Privatization": "In the Government: If We Emerge Victorious in 1993, Then We Will Emerge Victorious Overall"]

[Text] However, the "political situation surrounding privatization may be sharply aggravated," Anatoliy Chubays, Russian Federation vice-premier and chairman of the State Committee for the Administration of State Property [Goskomimushchestvo], declared at a meeting of chairmen of territorial property administration committees. He put this down to the existing configuration of forces in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and the fact that the new year will be "decisive in carrying out the privatization of state property." The vice-premier continued: "We won 1992 outright, and if we emerge victorious in 1993, then we will emerge victorious overall. It will become impossible to turn the privatization process backwards."

In the opinion of A. Chubays, by far the fiercest battle will take place over efforts by the "communist opposition" to pass a law investing labor collectives at privatized enterprises with preferential rights and benefits. A. Chubays asserted that "labor collective priority" means in reality that "property is being taken away from one half of the population and handed over to the other." In that case, he said, it will be inevitable that the military, pensioners, doctors, teachers, and other workers in budget-funded organizations will miss out on their share.

The vice-premier noted that despite the fact that planned revenue targets from privatization in 1992 were more than doubled, hitting 157 billion rubles, Goskomimushchestvo failed to fulfill the program for the number of enterprises to be privatized. According to his statistics, 46,185 applications for privatization had been accepted by the start of 1993, which constitutes approximately 19 percent of all Russian enterprises. A. Chubays sees the reason for this as residing in the initial complexity of processing privatization documents. Now, he said, this has been overcome by delegating some of Goskomimushchestvo's powers to territorial property administration committees.

The vice-premier said the he sees "firm support on the part of the president." He also announced that he has had "several conversations with government head V. Chernomyrdin, in which he saw no significant differences in their positions (on privatization)." In particular, the premier signed a draft privatization program for 1993 without making any amendments to it.

Media Issues

Yeltsin Confirms Russian Broadcasting's All-State Character

LD2101232293 Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2300 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] First of all, let's hear about two decrees signed by President Yeltsin on Tuesday. One of them appoints Sergey Filatov to the post of head of the president's administration. The second decree—and this is a very important one for us—gives the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company the status of an all-state company. My colleague Aleksey Abakumov will acquaint you with the text of this decree:

[Abakumov] To preserve a single, nationwide information space and to make it possible for the Russian Federation [RF] to pursue a unified scientific and technical policy in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting, I resolve:
1. That the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company is to be regarded as an all-state television and radio broadcasting company, representing the RF's interests in existing and newly created international TV and radio organizations. The All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company operates in close cooperation with organs of legislative and executive authority in the RF.

2. In view of the importance of disseminating the TV programs of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, as an all-state television and radio broadcasting company, the RF Ministry of Communications, together with the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, is given two weeks to endorse a plan of measures to develop a transmission network which ensures that television programs reach the largest possible proportion of the RF public. The RF Communications Ministry is to make available a complex of technical facilities in the "Moscow Global" system for use—though not exclusively so—by the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. The All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, together with Russia's "Ostankino" State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, is to draw up an outline scheme of programs for transmission over the "Moscow Global" system.

3. To cover the progress of economic reforms and to ensure the development of education, the arts and multiethnic culture of the peoples of Russia, full-time transmission on the fourth TV frequency channel is to become part of the structure of broadcasting by the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. A series of specialized programs devoted to the problems of entrepreneurship, land reform, privatization, conversion, the taxation system, banking and insurance are to be made. Ministries and departments having a stake in this are to take part in the formulation of programs for the fourth TV frequency channel.

4. To strengthen the material and technical facilities available to the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, it is to be exempted from the requirement to sell its hard currency earnings on the domestic market and from the need to pay import dues when purchasing equipment for the production of television and radio programs or buying cinefilm and video-film, as well as TV, radio, and audio-visual products.

5. The chairman of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, Oleg Maksimovich Poptsov, is given a month to submit regulations on the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company for approval in accordance with established procedures.

[Signed] President of the RF Boris Yeltsin.

Chernomyrdin Signs Decree on Information Resources

PM2101153793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jan 93 First Edition p 6

[Decree No. 14 of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 6 January 1993 and signed by V. Chernomyrdin]

[Text] Decree No. 14 of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 6 January 1993, Moscow

Questions of the Russian Association of Information Resources for Scientific and Technical Development Under the Government of the Russian Federation

The Russian Federation Government **decrees**

1. To entrust to the Rosinformresurs (Moscow City) the functions of the main organization of the Russian Association of Information Resources for Scientific and Technical Development under the Government of the Russian Federation, including the coordination of the activity of scientific and technical information centers and other organizations belonging to the Association's system for the creation of the conditions which ensure their functioning within a single information technology complex.

2. Rosinformresurs (Moscow City) shall ensure the solution of the following main tasks:

the organization of the formation, location, and use on the territory of the Russian Federation of the state's scientific and technical information resources, including territorial funds of scientific and technical literature and documentation, as well as automated systems for the processing and transfer of that information;

the selection, analysis, and generalization of information on the country's scientific, technical, and socioeconomic development on behalf of the Russian Federation Government;

the coordination of the activity of scientific and technical information centers and other organizations belonging to the system of the Russian Association of Information Resources for Scientific and Technical Development under the Government of the Russian Federation and the elaboration of programs for the improvement and development of that system;

assistance in the introduction of new information technologies into the practice of information support on Russian territory;

cooperation with foreign organizations on questions of the transfer, exchange, and purchase of information;

the organization of the retraining and improvement of the skills of cadres in providing information support for specialists in the national economy;

the financing of work in forming and organizing the use of state scientific and technical information resources and the creation of data bases and data banks and in the selection, analysis, and generalization of information for the Russian Federation Government.

3. That the activity of Rosinformresurs (Moscow City) shall be financed from the Russian Federation republic budget and from the resources of enterprises, organizations, and other economic subjects interested in obtaining scientific and technical information.

4. The Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information under the president of the Russian Federation shall provide Rosinformresurs (Moscow City) with government communications (one ATS-2 [automatic telephone exchange] apparatus).

5. Bearing in mind the interrepublican and interregional character of the activity of scientific and technical information centers and the need to use their information resources in the interests of all the territories of the Russian Federation, it is established that scientific and technical information centers and other organizations in the system of the Russian Association of Information Resources for Scientific and Technical Development under the Government of the Russian Federation shall be regarded as federal property.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin

Ostankino Chief Says Yeltsin Misled, Wants Edict Repealed

MK2201114093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 22 Jan 93 p 13

[Aleksandr Vorobyev report: "Yeltsin's Edict on Russian TV: 'Ostankino' Hopes Edict Will Be Rescinded"]

[Excerpts] An 'Ostankino' television and radio company board meeting, at which the company's leadership decided how to react to the president's 19 January edict changing the status of Russian television, ended late in the evening of 20 January. [passage omitted].

Commenting on the Russian president's edict, Igor Malashenko [Ostankino general director], told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that the edict came as an "extremely unpleasant surprise" to the television and radio company's personnel. He also said that "a registration certificate exists (concerning the right to broadcast on Channel 4), which by law can be revoked only by a court." In Malashenko's opinion, the president was "misled" by the people who drafted the edict. The general director also believes that there is no point in getting steamed up at the moment, especially since Mikhail Poltoranin, leader of the Federal Information Center, completely sides with "Ostankino," according to Malashenko. The television and radio company's personnel hope that the president will appreciate the "legal situation" regarding the contentious issue and that the edict will be repealed. [passage omitted]

Military Issues

80 Nuclear Submarines Decommissioned

LD2101162393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1419 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 21 TASS—Russia has decommissioned some 80 outdated nuclear submarines from its navy and reactors were unloaded on one third of them, according to Russian Navy commander- in-chief, Admiral Felix Gromov.

However, it will take quite a long time to discharge nuclear fuel from all the submarines as there are no sufficient dumps for radioactive waste in the country.

Gromov said that after the government adopted the first programme of scrapping submarines in 1992, acceptable places for new dumps are being looked for. In the meantime, the crews remain on the decommissioned submarines to ensure their safety.

"We have accelerated the process of decommissioning old warships which have lost their combat ability and became dangerous in exploitation because of worn out electric wires," the admiral said.

However, the scrapping of submarines will not tell on the deterrence potential of the Russian navy as new warships will appear thanks to a 10-year long shipbuilding programme.

Gromov said that the programme is smaller in scope than the Soviet ones as Russia has inherited only 60-64 per cent of the former Soviet shipbuilding potential. He added that the government is giving priority to atomic submarine construction in Severodvinsk.

Supreme Soviet

MP's Tell Serbia's Milosevic Sanctions Mistake

LD1601133493 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Solovyev from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] One of the main stories in the newspapers and on television news in Yugoslavia was the meeting between Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and a delegation of Russian Supreme Soviet deputies, which is in Belgrade. There is good reason for interest in the meeting. Russia is still considered here as the best old ally. It was stated at the meeting that Russia and Serbia are linked by a long-standing and firm friendship between our fraternal peoples.

The guests from the Russian parliament said it is necessary to rectify the mistake of Russia's joining in the sanctions against Serbia. Apart from hitting our friendship, this policy has caused enormous material losses for both countries. It was stated at the meeting that the new Geneva accords have confirmed that sanctions were groundlessly introduced.

The Russian parliamentarians expressed their appreciation of the contribution by President Milosevic to the peace process at the Geneva talks, and expressed the hope that further reciprocal contacts will develop between our countries. Our economists and businessmen have a special interest in this as, following the imposition of the blockade, several large joint projects have been put on ice.

Security Stepped Up at Parliament Building

LD1801115493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Russian Federation People's Deputies, staff of the Russian parliamentary apparatus, and journalists witnessed an abrupt stepping up of the guard on the Russian Federation White House [parliament] on the morning of 18 January. The entrances to the parliament building are guarded on all sides by militia detachments, even though there are no signs of people assembling anywhere. [passage omitted]

Ruslan Khasbulatov, Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chairman, has strongly censured the unlawful actions of opposition supporters and demanded that the militia should step up security around the country's parliament building.

Kozyrev Assailed for Acting 'Independent' of Parliament

OW2101132293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1252 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On January 28, Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin is to speak in parliament about the implementation of the resolutions of the 7th Congress of People's Deputies on the fulfillment of the anti-crisis economic program.

The parliament did not support the idea of making Foreign Minister Kozyrev present a report on his activity. Deputy Sergey Baburin, who represents the Russian Unity alliance and who had advanced this idea, alleged that the foreign minister "feels absolutely independent from the government and parliament", and demanded that Kozyrev explain how Russia may benefit from lowering prices on oil for Ukraine and to what extent he heeds the voice of the parliament.

Commenting on Baburin's speech, Chairman Ruslan Khasbulkatov said the Russian government should be reminded that, in accordance with the amendments to the Constitution, approved by the 7th Congress of People's Deputies, the parliament is to endorse candidacies to four ministerial posts, including that of Foreign Minister.

Chairman of the parliament's Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, said that Kozyrev is expected to present his report next Tuesday, January 25, at 15:00, to an enlarged session of this parliamentary committee.

On Thursday, the Russian parliament is expected to consider the future of the Federal Information Center, as well as various aspects of financial and legal support for the media. On Khasbulatov's initiative, the parliament will also discuss the future of the parliamentary committee for the media and public relations.

Khasbulatov said that there were three options: either to reorganize this committee into a commission, or to keep it the way it is and elect a new chairman, or to reorganize it into a committee in charge of the media alone.

As the deputies regularly stay away from parliamentary sessions, Khasbulatov instructed the organizing department to recall a parliamentary delegation from London without delay. At the moment, 25 members of the Russian parliament are in London, gaining experience from the British parliament's.

Khasbulatov Reacts to Poltaranin Interview in L'UNITA

LD1701225093

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1900 GMT on 17 January, in its regular "Itogi" program, broadcasts a report by Yevgeniy Kiselev recalling an interview with Mikhail Poltoranin, head of the Russian Federal Information Center, published by the Italian newspaper L'UNITA and reprinted on 14 January by ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, and which made various accusations against Russian parliamentary leader Ruslan Khasbulatov. A clip follows of Thursday's session of the Supreme Soviet, at which Khasbulatov reacted with regret

to the article, and then an extract from Khasbulatov's studio interview on Moscow Television yesterday, as follows:

[Khasbulatov] "The fact that the man is, generally, an adventurist is I think quite well known, and people were grateful to the president when he announced that the man had resigned from the post of first deputy prime minister. But this is what I would like to begin with. You see, we in the Supreme Soviet, including myself, were bewildered by the actual appearance of this Federal Information Center. We shall of course eliminate this center as being illegal. I think that the president should make a decision here with regard to this man.

"But with regard to what I feel inside, that's why I am chairman of the Supreme Soviet—not to show to people what is inside too much. But think for yourself what I must be feeling inside after such accusations have been circulated throughout the world, and of course they're slanderous; this is criminal, there is the concept of a state crime. It is from this position probably that the law enforcement organs have to look at this article. I am disturbed and very worried by something else: What if this is a sign that these people are actually trying to derail the important conciliatory document concluded at the congress, the very important compromise, the attempt to reach some kind of agreed approaches to the referendum."

There then follows an interview with two correspondents at the Moscow bureau of L'UNITA, who explain how the interview was carried out on 5 January and then published in Italy on 9 January, and how they were then contacted on 13 January by the press service of the Supreme Soviet chairman requesting a copy of the newspaper, the day before it appeared in ROSSKIYSKAYA GAZETA. They explain that there had been inevitable inaccuracies in the Russian version, which was a translation from the Italian, which was already a translation from the original Russian, and denied allusions that Poltoranin had been suffering from the new year celebrations. A recording then follows of a telephone conversation with the Italian author of the interview, and then the following interview with Poltoranin himself:

[Unidentified correspondent] "Mikhail Nikiforovich, do you regret very much that you gave this interview to L'UNITA, and that as a result we have another scandal?"

[Poltoranin] "Well, I do not regret that I gave the interview. But the way it subsequently got blown up, that is another matter. I am completely confident of what I said. Now as regards the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA. When the rumpus blew up here, we got the newspapers, we got a good Italian translator, and we translated what had been printed in L'UNITA and then compared it with what had been printed in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA. We saw a lot of very fundamental discrepancies between the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA text and the text in L'UNITA. This is where people are described in particular as saying that Khasbulatov had surrounded himself with rabble, which was not in L'UNITA, or where it said that Skokov is a strong personality and is in the shadows for the time being—that is in L'UNITA—while ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA said Skokov sits in the shadows and hatches plots.

The same applies with regard to the description of Volskiy, Barannikov, and so on; that is, you get the feeling that premeditated work was carried out. The publication in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA is certainly not a reprint; it is simply an original piece of work aimed at creating a scandal. I wondered why, when this newspaper came out, and then I understood, when I saw that this publication came out on the day the session opened; at the same time Anpilov had gathered his contingent around the White House, which demanded the abolition of the Federal Information Center—it was actually with the question of the Federal Information Center that the sessions of the Supreme Soviet began. It is not about me, it's about a struggle for the mass media."

[Correspondent] "By the way, Mikhail Nikiforovich, yesterday the chairman of the Supreme Soviet spoke for a long time about you, speaking on a Moscow Television program. In particular he promised that he would certainly eliminate the Federal Information Center, which you head, and practically urged the president to dismiss you once and for all. Do you consider such a possibility?"

[Poltoranin] "The president is entitled to create his own teams himself, but if the president thinks it is necessary to close this center and dismiss me, that is his affair. I am always ready to obey."

[Correspondent] "Are you convinced even now that prior to the Seventh Russian Congress of People's Deputies there had been a real threat of a constitutional coup, and that the central figure had been the chairman of the Supreme Soviet?"

[Poltoranin] "Yes, everything had been leading toward carrying out this constitutional coup, and the whole package of amendments that was submitted to the seventh congress was also leading to a state constitutional coup. Thay is why President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin was forced on 10 December to appeal to the people, over the heads of the congress, so that this should not happen. I think that any school kid could understand that if there is no constitution, if there is no clear boundary of power, then some power always strives to cross the boundary of another power, which is always being done by Khasbulatov's team. I understand him here; they have got a large team, it is growing, they don't have enough room, so they have to take this room—it is all according to the laws of logic."

[Correspondent] "Yes, and another fundamental point, the referendum. On the basis of this interview, there are still powerful forces which are grouping, say, around the representative organs of power, which are going to try, come what may, to derail the referendum by any means and bury it. Do you think this danger is serious?"

[Poltoranin] "We cannot always be in some kind of constitutional indeterminacy. We call this a lack of constitutional order, a constitutional deadlock, but this is really

indeterminacy, and it is always fraught with suspicions, fraught with what we call a desire to pull the carpet from under another power. A constitution is needed, and if a referendum is held—and that's also a very serious question—then it is the referendum which should define in which direction we should go."

[Correspondent] "I am again quoting Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov. Yesterday, again in the Moscow Television program, having called this interview not only slander but criminal—a state crime, one undermining the state's political foundations. He effectively called on the law enforcement organs to bring criminal charges against you. Do you think this is a real prospect?"

[Poltoranin] "Well, first, thank God that Ruslan Imranovich is beginning to remember the law enforcement organs. We have been telling him for a long time now that corruption is flourishing in Russia, that the mafia is not giving us any rest, that it is high time for the Supreme Soviet to move away from all the scandals, from all the petty intrigues, from political struggle, and seriously engage in creating a legal basis for fighting crime, thank God."

Poltoranin Defends Information Center, Burbulis

OW1801162593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1507 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mikhail Poltoranin, the leader of the Federal Information Center (FIC) of the Russian Federation, declared that the Russian Supreme Soviet cannot prohibit the financing of the center because the latter is not included in the list of structures designated to coordinate with the parliament. During his meeting with journalists in the International Press Club on Monday [18 January] in Moscow, he pointed out that the parliament can only address the Russian Constitutional Court asking to consider the correspondence of Boris Yeltsin's decree on the creation of the FIC with the constitution.

Poltoranin expressed his opinion that, in the course of the latest time period, "the situation around this center is deliberately being aggravated in order to present it to the press as an information cover up." He underlined that the FIC had been created by the President in order "to draw the state mass media from under the conflicting branches of power and to ensure independent reflection of the preparation during the course of the referendum." Later, the center can become a consortium of mass media with working staff, totalling 90 people. According to Poltoranin, this can assist in the transfer of all mass media, including the state ones, to self-financing and complete independence.

In response to one of the questions Poltoranin reported that the now former state secretary, Gennadiy Burbulis, is creating a center of political studies, in which "experts will calculate different variants to establish the Russian statehood."

Poltoranin also noted that somebody "tries to place all errors and miscalculation of the executive power on Burbulis." According to Poltoranin, this is simply not true. "Burbulis' misfortune is that he is a very clever man and can see far beyond others, and his adversaries do not like this," Poltoranin said.

Further on Information Center

LD1901223793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0030 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Interview with Mikhail Nikiforovich Poltoranin, manager of the Federal Information Center, by station commentator Aleksandr Zhetvin, following Poltoranin's meeting with journalists at the international press center in Moscow on 18 January—recorded]

[Text] [Zhetvin] Mikhail Nikiforovich, Mayak gets lots of questions. Could you please describe the concept of the Federal Information Center in brief?

[Poltoranin] I will start by rejecting the accusations that are being hurled at us by communists, the opposition and so on. The Center does not provide censorship or control of the media nor is it a whip for the media. It has none of these negative characteristics. It is no accident that only communists, and nobody else, rose against this Center; you could see it when Anpilov's contingent surrounded the White House. The Center has been designed in order to pool the efforts of many of our state structures, not only the media but simply state structures, in order to provide more information and better information services for journalists working in all the media, be they independent, state or foreign, and also to show our way of life in other countries.

[Zhetvin] That is, coordination and exchange?

[Poltoranin] Yes, to coordinate the efforts of our state structures. Today this process is developing in such a way in our country that, say, the self-same Ostankino Television and Radio Company does not exist, generally speaking. Ostankino numbers only 4,000 people ...

[Zhetvin, interrupting] Perhaps, more.

[Poltoranin] There are 4,000 people who, as privatization proceeds, will remain simply empty-handed while all property will be taken over by dealers [tekhnari], as we call them ...

[Zhetvin] Absolutely true.

[Poltoranin] ... and so on and so forth. Today journalists ...

[Zhetvin] They have already started selling things off!

[Poltoranin] Yes, it happens that they cannot even get equipment to carry out their work. Ostankino is a structure within the president's competence; after all, it is he who appoints the chairman and so on. He cannot busy himself with these issues, so he would like us to sort things out and to do everything to ensure that the processes of privatization and flotation develop properly and our media do not fall to pieces.

[Zhetvin] But zealous figures at the Supreme Soviet—you know there are many of them there—claim that the setting up of the Federal Information Center was absolutely illegal, that they will stop financing it, will not finance it at all; how will these issues be solved?

[Poltoranin] Well, first, this Center does not need the Supreme Soviet's finances. The 90 people that are expected to ...

[Zhetvin] Who is going to pay their salaries?

[Poltoranin] Well, first of all, the president has his own fund—and we are a presidential structure—from which he can finance any structures. I am certain that this is a legal and constitutional structure. Second, we would not want to live on that fund for long, since the Center has property. This has been given to us precisely to use in preparing an economic base for the transition to independence of all our state mass media. We will simply earn money ourselves and live, in fact, as many are living today.

However, the speaker went even further. He says that if the Federal Information Center unites around itself, let's say radio and television, TASS and so on, then they will no longer be financed from the budget either. Well, let them try to stop financing, let's say, the Ostankino Television Company! Let the Supreme Soviet try to do that! By his decree, the president, as it were, removed our major mass media from attack by the Supreme Soviet, from defamation, and they don't like that. They want to control the mass media and, you know, the same Ostankino Company works according to its own rules, its own statute which has been approved, and nobody can interfere in it, our Center cannot interfere in it, nor the deputies—they just want to turn up and begin to issue commands on what you should and should not broadcast, as was the case already. They are opposed to the president screening the state mass media with his umbrella, and that umbrella is called the Federal Information Center.

[Zhetvkin] Mikhail Nikiforovich, I have a painful question: I recall that the president—you were at a meeting with him at the radio and television—spoke out against such a huge monopoly structure as the former State Television and Radio. What is your view on demonopolization?

[Poltoranin] Well, the president remembers these proposals. We even spoke of that when we were with him. He remembers that. He himself said, proposed there that something should be done.

[Zhetvkin] What is your opinion as a professional?

[Poltoranin] Well, I think that demonopolization was necessary, even if only the radio and television to start with, because the empire represented today by Ostankino is not only difficult to manage. It seems to me that it operates inefficiently. If there are fewer structures, if people are closer to things, if there is a bit closer attention, then there will be less corruption, less rumors and gossip going around.

[Zhetvin] But you depicted what comes next rather clearly—the creation of joint stock companies, the creation of independent concerns, of structures, right?

[Poltoranin] We want to set up an independent concern on the basis of the Federal Information Center Take Ostankino; from the economic and the organizational points of view, the Ostankino collective assembles ...

[Zhetvin, interrupting] But I hope that a well-defined Ostankino, the radio and the television separately ...

[Poltoranin, interrupting] [words indistinct] the collective assembles and adopts the decision at the meeting to join that concern, I hope that the journalists' collective of other companies and editorial offices will assemble, we assemble [as heard]. Then the president will issue a decree, will agree with the journalists' proposals and set up a concern. In this way the Federal Information Center passes away and a concern comes into being. However, this does not exist alone but unites to form a consortium. There's the IZVESTIYA concern, the ARGUMENTY I FAKTY concern. There's the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper concern. Some regional publications will be concerns and they all unite to form a consortium which will have a management, a council.

[Zhetvin] In other words, the free association of various independent media.

[Poltoranin] Independent of all branches of power. We will not be rushing off to the Supreme Soviet to ask for a few kopeks. The speaker won't be able to threaten us, saying: I will give this but not that. We will deal with it ourselves. Only one thing will have authority over us: the law. When we began with the law on the press in 1989, the first law that was only passed by Lukyanov's Supreme Soviet with some difficulty, that was the first step toward this great objective.

[Zhetvin] The Supreme Soviet believes even the law should be re-examined.

[Poltoranin] Well, the Supreme Soviet is within its rights to do this but I don't think ...

[Zhetvin, interrupting] Is it really within its rights?

[Poltoranin] They are taking over everything. I think that the battle over information begins by and large with parliament. It got worse and worse over IZVESTIYA and of course, it will, apparently, continue and all the more so since in the run-up to the referendum I forecast that they will take every step to take possession of this area, because it is very important. It has been lost by parliament because they did not pay attention to the mass media, because they were disdainful in their attitude toward them, as if they were parliament's servants, but in fact the Fourth Estate has appeared in Russia and is becoming independent. It must be spoken to with respect so that everything can be quite normal. We have all emerged from a period in which newspapers were managed, and there are many people in the Supreme Soviet today who were directly engaged in managing the papers at that time. They had everything to

hand. They only had to press a button and say so and so will do this, will defame someone else, whereas now they have suddenly lost this instrument and don't understand that that is the way it should be. They think something has gone wrong, that it is the result of an oversight or an omission on someone's part, and every time they plan to start on this issue of the mass media as it has been until now, they rush off to keep them on a leash. Let's keep them on a leash. The question is always coming up, but they forget that times change.

[Zhetvin] Mikhail Nikiforovich, I think I am expressing the view of the majority of journalists in saying that we are fervent supporters of the creation of the Federal Information Center. Let us join you in fighting for the independence of the press.

[Poltoranin] Thank you.

[Zhetvin] But the first issue is the referendum, right? To prepare well for the referendum.

[Poltoranin] Thank you. Do you remember when our Ministry of the Press was being set up, how much fuss there was, that an agitprop was being created?

[Zhetvin] I do.

[Poltoranin] Then when they realized that the Ministry of the Press was actually of some help, that it was creating an infrastructure, they calmed down. Now they are saying: What about the Ministry of the Press? Will it still exist? Again, a great many people simply do not understand these matters.

[Zhetvin] They understand well enough. Calling the Federal Information Center the Politburo and so on is provocation.

[Poltoranin] Once it's in place everything will be fine.

[Zhetvin] All the best.

[Poltoranin] The same to you.

[Zhetvin] Thank you.

Parliament Discusses Chemical Weapons Convention

OW1901181393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's expenditure connected with international inspections envisaged in the convention on banning chemical weapons signed in Paris recently will amount to about 500 million dollars. This was revealed in Moscow on Tuesday [19 January], during parliamentary hearings on the draft of the first phase of the Composite Program for Scrapping Chemical Arms in the Russian Federation, by Dr. Anatoliy Kuntsevich, leader of the presidential committee for conventional problems involving chemical and biological arms.

According to him, payment for the activity of international inspectors (between 400 and 2000 dollars a day) is made by the country on whose territory they work. Considering the volumes of chemical weapons stockpiles, the biggest expenditure will be borne by Russia and the USA. Kuntsevich suggested to the Russian Foreign Ministry that solution to this problem should be found before the Parliament convenes to ratify the convention.

According to him, one of the possible solutions can be to set up a special structure: an international pool that would include countries willing to contribute equal amounts of money to the process of scrapping chemical weapons. To resolve financial problems is also possible through the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Besides, hard currency will be needed to set up international centers certified to analyse all components of the environment (poisonous chemicals and all types of toxic substances). According to Kuntsevich, the worth of such analysis system will make up 12-15 million dollars.

Dr. Kuntsevich listed the principles underlying the composite program: the ensurance of absolute security for the population and the environment; the need to save resources; the maximal use of the structures built to develop and manufacture chemical weaponry and its potentials. There are plans to reorient the relevant research centers to the development of technologies for scrapping chemical arms and the test sites to testing designed to envisage the possible accidents.

Kuntsevich's arguments failed to convince parliamentarians, who actually rejected the concept of the composite program for scrapping chemical weapons on Russian soil. The idea of transporting chemical arms from storage places to 2 or 3 scrapping centers came under fire. The Parliament of Chuvashia, on whose territory, in Novocheboksarsk, one of such centers was to be built, has already decided to ban the bringing of poisonous substances to its territory. As MP Venera Pechnikova said at the parliamentary hearings, Chuvashia "has no intention of reverting to this issue, since there are no ecologically clean technologies for destroying poisonous substances, and not a single kilo of such substances is stored in Novocheboksarsk".

Tatar Supreme Council Environmental Committee Chairman Aleksey Kolesnik pointed out at the hearings that Tatarstan would not give permission for chemical weapons to be transported across the territory of the republic. Analogous resolutions, he said, were being prepared in other Volga republics.

Russian Supreme Council Committe for Environmental Matters Deputy Chairman Valeriy Menshikov demanded that a state environmental survey of the composite program be carried out before its presentation to the Russian Supreme Council.

In this case, said Kuntsevich, it would be necessary to change the plan and scrap weapons where they are stored. It would further be necessary to build seven chemical weapon liquidation complexes instead of two or three, as planned earlier.

Lev Fedorov, Doctor of Chemical Sciences and chairman of the Anti-Dioxin Committee, said in an interview with Diplomatic Panorama what it was essential to completely change the plan for the Composite Program for Scrapping Chemical Arms in the Russian Federation, which was prepared by the Russian Federation President's Committee for the Conventional Problems of Chemical and Biological Weapons and by the Russian government.

In Fedorov's opinion, the program should not be restricted to the job of destroying the 40,000 tons of chemical weapons now being stored in Russia. "In the history of the Soviet Union, from 500,000 to one million tons of chemical weapons were manufactured, which, at the end of their useful life, were buried or burned," he said.

Dr. Fedorov considers it essential to collect and destroy these materials. According to his data, territories in Moscow and the Moskovski, Ivanoski, Kolski, Permski, Samarski, and Volgogradski oblasts and Chuvashia. [sentence as received] Toxic waste has also been dumped into the world's oceans: in three locations in the Baltic Sea, in the North Arctic Ocean, and the seas of the Pacific Ocean.

The condition of Russia's railways, says Fedorov, does not allow for the current chemical weapon scrapping plan, which envisages toxic materials to be transported from their storehouses to two or three liquidation centers, to be carried out. In his opinion, the weapons must be destroyed where they are stored. Russia currently has seven major chemical weapons stockpiles in the Kurganski, Penzenski, Kirovski, Saratovski, and Bryanski oblasts, and two in Udmurdia. "Payments must be made to these territories for the restoration of the environment and the health of the people," he said.

Supreme Soviet Debates Publications; Agenda Outlined

LD1801213793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Today a routine sitting was held of the Supreme Soviet Presidium. Nikolay Artemyev reports:

[Artemyev] The Presidium endorsed expenditure on the upkeep of the Supreme Soviet Control and Budget Committee for 1993. It could not avoid a debate when it came to examining Supreme Soviet spending on the upkeep of the FEDERATSIA newspaper. This was inaugurated by the Supreme Soviet and is in considerable demand. Its print runs sell out. However, as stated by Budget Commission Chairman Aleksandr Pochinok, when he made his report on this issue, losses from publication amount to 264,738,000 rubles. If the Supreme Soviet wants this newspaper to be published, it will have to provide subsidies. Incidentally, the next question was the estimate for publishing the ETNOPOLIS bulletin. in this connection, Sergey Krasavchenko asked whether the Supreme Soviet is perhaps planning to finance too many publications. Aleksandr Pochinok commented that unfortunately only the gutter press pays its own way in our country. It was decided to submit the issue of financing to the Supreme Soviet.

The Presidium decided the order of work for Parliament this week. On 20 january, there will be a separate sitting of the chambers. The Soviet of the Republic will have to deal with the election of a chairman of the chamber. There will be joint sittings on 21 and 22 January. The law on military obligations and military service will once again be the focus of the deputies' attention. This was returned for further consideration by the president. It has been decided to vote again on the articles permitting postponement of the call-up.

Of the many hearings that took place in the White House today I will draw your attention only to those on the problems of Crimea, the Black Sea Fleet, and Sevastopol. The Supreme Soviet was obliged to return to these issues by a decision of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies. A working group is to be set up to study them. Parliamentary hearings were held prior to its formation, with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense taking part. Unfortunately, after the representatives of the press had taken their seats, these hearings were declared closed and we had to leave the auditorium.

To some extent, the news conference held immediately after the hearings enabled the information vacuum to be filled. The assessments of those who took part in the hearings and their answers to questions from journalists were extremely cautious: no one should expect this issue to be resolved quickly; the process of creating a system of treaties between Russia and Ukraine will be a lengthy one. The notion of establishing confederation relations between Russia, Ukraine, and the Republic of Crimea was mentioned at the hearings, albeit without comment.

One further curious detail of today in Parliament: Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov did not attend the Presidium or appear in public. The Presidium sitting was conducted by Deputy Chairman Nikolay Ryabov.

Parliamentary Scrutiny of Forces Budget Eyed

PM1501160193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jan 93 pp 1,3

[Interview with Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the parliamentary Commission for the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices, by Vladimir Yermolin; place and date and place not given: "The Country and the Army Are Living Without a Budget. Parliament Promises One by February"]

[Text] In parliament the week before New Year, Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the Soviet of the Republic Commission for the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices, presented to deputies the Russian president's budget message. Few

thought that the proposed version of the distribution of the budget for 1993 would be accepted by parliament on the nod. The Supreme Soviet showed an entirely understandable desire to investigate why it is these figures and not others which feature in the financial program document for the year and what considerations underpinned the accounts presented.

Aleksandr Pochinok suggested that immediately after New Year the Supreme Soviet should open hearings on the budget message in committees and commissions so that it can be submitted for final discussion at the end of January. He noted that a number of budget indicators clearly need adjustment. That includes the defense section.

The editorial office has not been short of angry phone calls on this subject. You can fully understand the feelings of our readers who are incensed that the "late" budget for the new year, 1993, condemns many economic managers and directors of budget organizations (in defense, too, of course) to financial activity "without a helm or a sail," basing their calculations not on the law but on the charity of officials. Readers have justified doubts about the planned increase in pay and pensions. Defense sector enterprises are entering the new year with uncertain prospects. These angry attacks are directed at the Kremlin, Old Square, and the Krasnaya Presnya Embankment, or, to put it more simply, the president, the government, and the parliament.

The editorial office has asked Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the Commission for the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices, to add some clarity to the budget message situation.

[Yermolin] Aleksandr Petrovich, January 1993 is upon us and yet we still do not know what the country's budget will be like for this year. How could that be?

[Pochinok] For our part we are doing everything to reduce as much as possible the timetable for the discussion of the budget message in the Supreme Soviet. We received this enormous document at the end of the year and we did not have a practical opportunity to study it in December. Under the law, the timetable for the discussion of the budget for a given year is 15-18 months. We are trying to complete the discussion by 27-29 January, especially since V. Chernomyrdin's government is now making major changes to the budget. All this complicates the work of parliament on the budget message but, I repeat, we have speeded up our examination as much as possible and I hope that the Supreme Soviet will complete this work by February.

[Yermolin] At a joint session of the chambers on 25 December, you said that the defense budget also needs further study in the committees and commissions of the Supreme Soviet. Is it possible to talk of a fundamentally new approach by parliament to the formation of the defense budget?

[Pochinok] This year all the work relating to the defense budget by the Supreme Soviet as a whole, our commission, and the Committee for Defense and Security Questions has been based on completely different principles from those of previous years. Before the defense budget was given one line in the budget message, one session of the Supreme Soviet was held, and everything was adopted virtually without discussion; now the approach is different. We are interested in the justification for the figures and we believe it necessary to examine the details. That is why a timetable for the parliamentary hearings has been drawn up. Committees responsible for sections of the budget have been appointed. On 4 January the committees began work on those sections of the budget that related to them. The Committee for Defense and Security Questions is preparing the main conclusions on Armed Forces spending.

Undoubtedly the defense budget will be reflected in the budget message but will be presented in enlarged form in a separate annex. I would note that we have no particular disagreements with the Defense Ministry. It prepared the general concept of financial spending for 1993 and this was discussed with the participation of the Russian president. On the basis of that discussion a whole raft of documents was drawn up. The Committee for Defense and Security Questions is studying them.

[Yermolin] Could you name some specific provisions which will probably be amended?

[Pochinok] Spending related to conversion, the pay of servicemen, and pension provision will clearly increase. Spending on the state border of the Russian Federation will also increase—and substantially, too. It is clearly necessary to increase spending on the solution of the army's social problems. We have just one approach here—a soldier must not be left wanting for anything. In addition, the cost of cutting the Armed Forces is rising considerably and the disarmament program will need extra spending.

[Yermolin] Was the recently signed START II Treaty taken into account in the estimate of defense budget spending? Has the United States, as the press has reported, promised to give Russia several hundred million dollars to implement the treaty?

[Pochinok] START II was not included in the defense budget. We still have enormous work to do there. Incidentally, I do not understand why it is necessary to create such an unhealthy fuss over the forthcoming Supreme Soviet discussion of the question of ratifying this treaty. I am sure that there is not a single parliamentarian who would be opposed to disarmament or to nullifying the nuclear danger. But this is natural—such a major package of measures must be comprehensively examined to work out what it will cost, who will finance the various operations, what timetable will be...

[Yermolin] Was this work really not done at the treaty preparation stage?

[Pochinok] All I can say is that the only document we have is the text of the treaty itself. We are now asking for all of them and will examine them in detail, then it will be possible to judge how carefully the treaty was worked out from the financial standpoint. We have experience of working with other documents of this type. I want to stress

that in this instance the Supreme Soviet is guided by just one consideration—how to reliably ensure the country's security. It is that principle which forms the basis of the parliamentary discussion of the budget message.

As for START II, we have to think about how we will look to the whole world if we promise something but do not have the means to fulfill it even in basic terms. Are we taking into account the money promised by America? Well, first of all we need to receive official information on that score. Of course, any sums of money channeled into the implementation of START II will be monitored by the Supreme Soviet, which will work out what to spend and where. But let us consider this: The Americans, naturally, prefer to spend their money in the interests of their own research and in support of their own companies. In any event we should rely primarily on ourselves.

[Yermolin] The president's budget message envisages a figure of 1 trillion 970 billion rubles [R] on defense spending in 1993. After the parliamentary discussion, as I understand it, that figure will change. By how much and in what direction?

[Pochinok] It will increase, of course. Probably it will be around 2 trillion.

[Yermolin] Everything would seem to be clear as far as the expenditure section goes. But is it true, as it seems to be, that for the first time the defense budget will have a revenue section?

[Pochinok] Yes. The Russian president's edict permitting the sale of military property and certain types of commercial activity in the Armed Forces justifies the inclusion of a revenue section in the defense budget. At the moment that amount is extremely small. It will increase considerably if a decision is adopted on weapons trading. My opinion on this question is that Russia must not lose money. Last year we lost a very great deal of money here. Trading in weapons must be conducted at a high professional level by the corresponding structures with mandatory control by the state. Certain studies have already been prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations together with the Defense Ministry. What is wrong, for example, in allowing a ship repair plant to sell a ship abroad and use the hard currency revenue to resolve its own production and social problems? The only problem is to ensure that this sale benefits the seller and the state. But I know of occasions when our salesmen go abroad, undercut each other, and sell the same type of gas masks on the cheap. No, we must remember the interests of the state in this matter.

[Yermolin] Aleksandr Petrovich, what volumes of arms purchases for our army are envisaged in the current year's defense budget?

[Pochinok] At the moment I can say that the actual spending in the section on arms and equipment purchases for the army has been reduced sixfold this year. Here is one detail: In the past we counted in thousands and tens of thousands, but now we count in individual items. Last year we bought 73 times fewer tanks than the year before that. This year we are reaching the critical level where industry can just about keep afloat. It is simply impossible to go any lower. Generally speaking we are buying extremely small amounts of weapons and equipment, in some cases simply none at all, only what there is already in production on the stocks and in the shops... But I want to stress once more that when working on the defense budget the Supreme Soviet is guided first and foremost by one principle: The army must have the kind and quantity of weapons and equipment that it needs to reliably ensure the security of the state.

Supreme Soviet Official Discusses Budget Problems

LD1901134593

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1600 GMT on 18 January, in its "Parliamentary Herald" program introduced by Russian People's Deputy Igor Zbronzhko, broadcasts a 15-minute report on the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's work on the formation and approval of the Federation's budget.

Zbronzhko begins by asking: "So what will our 1993 budget be like? What will be its specific features?" He then goes on to interview Aleksandr Petrovich Pochinok, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Commission for Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices, who says that 18 parliamentary hearings have been held on the budget so far and over 40 hearings altogether are expected before the budget is adopted. He adds: "For the first time in our country not only the law itself but also addendums to the law will be adopted; they specify the budget in great detail, section by section and line by line".

Pochinock then shows a file with the recently submitted amendments to the budget. "For the first time I hold in my hands an estimate for the upkeep of the presidential apparatus—it was submitted following the Supreme Soviet's decisions, you remember. We are now going to examine this 11 plus billion rubles [R]. This is the first time that expenditure on the wage rises to be put into effect in February has been taken into account. These additional social payments and the pay rises have increased the budget by R1.4 trillion, so this is a clarification."

Pochinok goes on to say that at tomorrow's meeting deputies are going to examine the distribution of income and expenditure between territories and the center. More should be done to shift responsibility for expenditure and income to the localities, he says, adding: "In reality, very little has changed in this field. In the previous draft budget message the territories had approximately 32 percent of income and expenditure at their disposal. This is very little. This figure should be sharply increased."

Pochinok cites examples showing vast discrepancies in the budget provisions for various oblasts. In his view, there should be logical and uniform principles of budget formation.

He then goes on to say that the recent rise in the minimum pension will affect the budget negatively. "Pensions are

being paid from the pension fund, and it has money," he says, "however, very many pensions are being paid from the budget; also, wages will have to be amended in accordance with the rise in pensions. Together with the Ministry of Finances we are urgently incorporating these changes in the budget, and then we shall see. We must balance it somehow.

"For the time being, the budget deficit is considerable." Zbronzhko interrupts to ask what the figure is, and Pochinok replies: "In the federal budget we are looking at something like R3 trillion. The territories, however, are in the black, you see; the territories are nearly R1 trillion in the black, for the time being. That is, as regards the distribution of funds, there are regions with healthy budgets. They are definitely in the black. So we now have to balance the situation."

He notes that investment expenditure has fallen sharply. "This is impermissible because we are talking about restructuring," he says, "the make-up of the economy and about the need to increase output but at the same time we invest almost no money. The coefficients of increases in prices for investments and construction are clearly too low, and, it seems, an additional trillion will have to be found somewhere."

Zbronzhko asks where it can be found and what does Pochinok mean by somewhere?

Pochinok replies: "Well, look now, over a month and a half we have found about R1.5 billion. How? The Supreme Soviet adopted a decision on changing customs policy. Customs tariffs have now become a tax payment. The procedure for collecting it has been modified. The Supreme Soviet has adopted a decision to introduce VAT on imported goods. All of this has resulted in hundreds of billions of rubles pouring in. I think that thanks to this decision alone we will collect more than a trillion."

He then suggests that tax on the sale of alcoholic drinks should be modified, to ensure greater revenue to the budget.

Asked about the taxation of medium and small enterprises, Pochinok says that in this field "additional benefits alone will amount to about R600 billion, because very serious investment allowances have been introduced. Profits used for investment are being exempted from taxation. So there you are." He adds that the minimum wage has been increased and clarifies the way this step has led to lower taxation. He goes on to clarify the treatment of the employees of budget-funded professions—doctors or teachers—in the new draft budget. They will be taken care of, he states.

As for the correlation between wages and prices, Pochinok says he believes that in the current economic situation prices will inevitably increase ahead of wages. First, the producton of goods should be boosted, he says, and only then can wages be raised; otherwise hyperinflation is unavoidable.

In conclusion Pochinok describes the meticulous work that is being done to improve the draft budget. He says he is certain that this year the budget will be formed much better than last year. It may happen, he adds, that the budget will not be adopted by the end of January because of the large number of amendments put forward, but the Supreme Soviet will do its best to complete this work as soon as possible.

Yeltsin's 1993 Budget Message Criticized at Hearings

PM2101151393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Aleksandr Linkov report under the "Budget" rubric: "Taxes Do Not Want to Be Gathered"]

[Text] The president's budget message for 1993 is being actively discussed in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. It is being discussed at parliamentary hearings organized by committees, commissions, and Supreme Soviet factions.

The most representative of these was held 19 January. Leaders of virtually all regions of the Russian Federation gathered in the White House. Addressing those assembled, Minister of Finance V. Barchuk dwelt briefly on mishaps in last year's budget.

He focused attention on certain features of the document being discussed. The hope was expressed that things would get better. If only because the Organizational-Taxation Inspectorate has now stood up on its own feet and is getting established; it is thanks to this inspectorate that regular payments of taxes are now being made into the state treasury.

It was finally decided to impose rigid control of the whole of retail trade in the numerous street kiosks which make billions, but which have been avoiding taxes. Cash tills and mandatory declaration of cash transactions [inkassatsiya] should be compulsory for them.

There are many omissions in the document that has been prepared. Decisions that generate serious losses are sometimes adopted. For example, the individual concessions issued by the president and the government to specific exporters alone cost the country at least $10 billion.

A great deal has been lost because of the ill-considered renunciation of the state monopoly on wine and vodka products. It seems that our country is the only one where a situation can develop whereby the government starts privatizing state enterprises, but makes losses.

Regional representatives launched a great many critical attacks on the budget message.

At the moment, despite the autonomy that is being declared, nothing has changed. The center and the departments are continuing to try to give all the orders and run everything. These omissions are also inherent in the president's budget message. It does not take into consideration the recent changes, and the consequences of the continuing

economic crisis are not being properly predicted. Serious amendments must be made to the document that has been presented.

The parliamentary hearings on the budget message will continue in the White House. According to A. Pochinok, there will be over four dozen of them. They will be concluded by 27 January. At the beginning of February, the budget message will be submitted to the Supreme Soviet session.

Presidium's 18 Jan Session Reported

PM2101142993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Russian Supreme Soviet Press Center report: "Supreme Soviet Presidium Session"]

[Text] A routine session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium was held at Russia's House of Soviets 18 January under the chairmanship of N.T. Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

The Supreme Soviet's work for the week ahead was examined and approved.

The draft law "On Amendments and Additions to the Law 'On the Employment of the Population in the Russian Federation'" and the Supreme Soviet draft decrees "On Approving the Statute on the Russian Federation Federal Employment Service" and "On Approving the Statute on the Russian Federation State Employment Fund" were presented in accordance with parliamentary procedure and have been sent to the standing commissions of the chambers, the committees of the Supreme Soviet, the president, and other subjects of legislative initiative to provide a ruling. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet draft decrees "On Amendments and Additions to the Supreme Soviet Decree of 18 April 1991 'On the Procedure for enacting the RSFSR Law "On the Militia"'" and "On the Formation of the Court of Arbitration of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug" have been sent directly to the Supreme Soviet for examination.

V.V. Gerashchenko, chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, has been appointed head of the Russian Federation delegation to the International Bank for Economic Cooperation and the International Investment Bank. He has been instructed to present the concept of the Russian Federation's participation in these international banks.

By decree of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium, S.S. Geychenko, former director of the A.S. Pushkin Estate Museum, has been awarded the Honorary Certificate of the President of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

The session examined other questions of the Russian Federation's state life.

'Hiatus' in Examining Military Laws Deplored

PM1901140193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jan 93 p 1

[Vladimir Yermolin report: "Russian President Returns Laws From 'Military Package' for Reexamination"]

[Text] After the New Year recess the Russian Supreme Soviet session has continued work. To be fair I should say that the deputies had working vacations—on 4 January work began in the committees and commissions to prepare draft laws for hearing at the joint sittings.

The discussion of the agenda was unusually long, over 90 minutes. Parliamentarians had quite a few proposals to make. I shall highlight those which have been included in the agenda. First the Supreme Soviet felt it necessary to react to the interview given by Mikhail Poltoranin, director of the Russian Federal Information Center, to the Italian newspaper L'UNITA. In that interview Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, was accused of plotting the armed seizure of power.

Parliament again (for the umpteenth time!) expressed a desire to investigate the mass media. It was agreed to prepare an amendment to the Law on the Press increasing journalists' responsibility for inaccurate information.

At Sergey Baburin's proposal, the Supreme Soviet will examine the question of the expediency of the presence of Russian warships in the Persian Gulf.

The Russian Law "On the Military Service Obligation and Military Service" was placed first on the agenda in connection with its return by the Russian president for reexamination. However, there was a serious snag here. First Deputy Vitaliy Urazhtsev and then Sergey Kovalev, chairman of the Human Rights Committee, stated that the version of the law sent for the president's signature was not the one adopted by the Supreme Soviet. In particular, according to Kovalev, Article 21 ("Deferment from draft for military service") in the text of the law sent to the president for signing does not correspond to the version that parliament voted for. Deferment for a draftee with a child aged under three years and deferment for the only son of a single mother were omitted from the list of concessions.

Aleksandr Piskunov, deputy chairman of the Committee for Defense and Security Questions, tried to object, but Khasbulatov used his power as chairman to prevent the debate from becoming heated and removed the question of the returned law from discussion. It would be more accurate to say that he suggested that it be examined in the afternoon, when the opposing sides could give parliament a clear picture of the problem.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time there has been a hiatus in the discussion of an important law because of a lack of coordination between this committee and other committees.

As I was told at the Committee for the Affairs of Invalids and War and Labor Veterans and the Social Protection of

Servicemen and Members of Their Families, the law on the status of servicemen "is on the president's desk." There are two options: Either the president signs the law or he signs the notes on it and returns it for reexamination in parliament. In view of the recently established practice whereby military laws are returned for further work, we may presume that the second scenario is likely.

The session's agenda includes the adoption of the following draft laws: "On the Status of Heroes of the Soviet Union, Heroes of the Russian Federation, and Full Holders of the Order of Glory," "On Pensions for Servicemen, Commanders, and Rank and File Personnel of the Internal Troops and Their Families," "On Complaints by Servicemen to the Military Court Against Unlawful Actions by Organs of Management and Military Officials," and "On the State Border of the Russian Federation." Parliament intends to examine all these draft laws in January.

There is one final point. Vitaliy Urazhtsev, coordinator of the "Army Reform" deputies' group, rightly noted that military laws are "cooked up" right away from the eyes of the public, especially the army public, of course. Whereas the Committee for the Affairs of Invalids and War and Labor Veterans and the Social Protection of Servicemen and Members of Their Families publishes its draft laws in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, the Committee for Defense and Security Questions prefers "not to bother" the newspapers with its draft laws unnecessarily.

The law "On Perpetuating the Memory of Those Who Died in the Defense of the Fatherland" enters force from the moment of publication: Deputies voted for the law today at a joint sitting of the chambers of the Russian parliament.

The law will perpetuate the memory of those who died in military action and in the fulfillment of other combat tasks or official duties in defense of the fatherland as well as those who died performing their military duty on the territory of other states.

Decree on 11 April Referendum Published

PM2101113993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Decree No. 4291-1 "On Measures To Ensure the Holding of the All-Russian Referendum on 11 April 1993," signed by Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov and dated 14 January 1993]

[Text] In accordance with the decree of the Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies dated 12 December 1992 "On the Stabilization of the Constitutional System of the Russian Federation" and on the basis of the RSFSR Law "On the RSFSR Referendum," the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decrees:

1. That a nationwide vote—referendum—on the main provisions of the new Constitution (Basic Law) of the Russian Federation be held throughout the Russian Federation on Sunday 11 April 1993.

2. That for the holding of this referendum, the powers of the Central Commission of the All-Russian Referendum shall be exercised by the Central Electoral Commission for the Elections of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation.

3. That the powers of okrug commissions for the all-Russian referendum shall be exercised respectively by the Central Electoral Commissions for the Elections of People's Deputies of the republics in the Russian Federation, and by the the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrug, kray, oblast, and Moscow and St. Petersburg city electoral commissions for the elections of people's deputies of the corresponding soviets of people's deputies.

The Supreme Soviets of the republics in the Russian Federation, soviets of people's deputies of the autonomous oblast and autonomous okrugs, and kray, oblast, and Moscow and St. Petersburg city soviets of people's deputies shall where necessary complement the okrug commissions for the all-Russian referendum within one week of the day of publication of the present decree.

4. Soviets of people's deputies of okrugs (autonomous okrugs with no rayon division), rayons, cities, and rayons within cities shall set up referendum districts and resolve the question of the formation of district commissions for the all-Russian referendum within three weeks of the day of publication of this decree.

5. Okrug commissions of the all-Russian referendum, in conjunction with the corresponding soviets of people's deputies, may enlist the help of the electoral commissions of rayons, cities, and rayons within cities for the elections of people's deputies of the corresponding soviets of people's deputies in holding the referendum and grant those electoral commissions the necessary powers.

6. The government of the Russian Federation, at the request of the Central Commission for the All-Russian Referendum, shall resolve questions of the material and financial backup for the referendum.

Enterprises, institutions, organizations, and state and public organs, in accordance with the RSFSR Law "On the RSFSR Referendum," shall for the period of the preparation and holding of the referendum place at the disposal of commissions of the all-Russian referendum premises, equipment, and means of transport necessary for the conduct of the referendum.

7. The Central Commission for the All-Russian Referendum shall ensure the monitoring of the observance of the law in the conduct of the referendum and shall regularly inform the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on the course of the preparation for the referendum.

8. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for Legislation shall analyze the comments and proposals of the Central Commission for the All-Russian Referendum and by 1 February 1993 shall prepare and present for examination by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet proposals on amendments and additions to the RSFSR Law "On the RSFSR Referendum."

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

[Dated] Moscow, Russia's House of Russian Soviets, 14 January 1993

Decree No. 4291-1

Closed Hearings Held on Crimean Problem

PM2001131993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Closed Hearings on Crimea"]

[Text] The problem of the Crimea undoubtedly exists and will continue to exist for some time to come, perhaps quite a long time. That was stated at yesterday's news conference on the results of the closed parliamentary hearings by Vladimir Podoprigora, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for Questions of Interrepublic Relations, Regional Policy, and Cooperation. The hearings were dedicated to the Crimean problem.

According to Vladimir Podoprigora, this problem has political and moral dimensions in addition to the legal one. "Even if the politicians in power in Moscow, Kiev, and Simferopol declare this question closed and nonexistent, social development will sooner or later bring it to the surface of political life," he said.

Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, chairman of the parliamentary Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, also agreed with the view that the Crimean problem is very real.

Yevgeniy Pudovkin, a member of that committee, told journalists that, in accordance with the decision of the seventh congress of people's deputies, a working group has been created in the Russian Supreme Soviet to prepare for the examination of the Sevastopol question at the session with the aim of submitting this question to discussion in the first quarter of this year. Expressing his own position, Yevgeniy Pudovkin noted that one way to resolve the Crimean problem could be to "establish confederative relations among Russia, Ukraine, and the Republic of Crimea."

Regional Affairs

Chechen State of Emergency Extended Until 10 Feb

LD2101102493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The state of emergency in the Chechen Republic is being extended until 10 February, the NEGA agency reports from Groznyy. A corresponding instruction was issued by General Dzhokhar Dudayev in connection with the ongoing tension in Chechnya. The state of emergency was introduced in the North Caucasus republic after Russian troops were brought in to the zone of the state of emergency in neighboring Ingushetia.

Dudayev Calls For Early Talks With Russia

LD1801200793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1919 GMT 18 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy January 18 TASS—"Russia will only gain from reaching an understanding with the Chechen Republic which will become its reliable ally, consistent in decisions and moves, in the Caucasus," Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev said on Monday.

In a televised address broadcast by local television on Monday, Dudayev said the Chechen Republic and Russia should sit down at a negotiation table as soon as possible to find a mutually acceptable political and economic agreements.

He said it is Russia that suffers from the continuing confrontation most of all, adding that the damage from the severance of its traditional economic ties is four times bigger than that of the Chechen Republic.

Dudayev described the recent talks between Chechen First Vice-Prime Minister Yaragiy Mamodayev and Russian authorities as "important and useful."

Chechen Parliament, President Split Over Russian Relations

LD1901145893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1357 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy January 19 TASS—The Chechen Parliament and president are split on the issue of future relations with Russia. Legislators are ready for compromise in order to sign an interstate treaty with the Federation, while Dzhokhar Dudayev is impeding the process, according to leaders of the Chechen Parliament.

"Talks between Chechnya and Russia will be continued despite any opposition and I hope they will be fruitful", speaker of the Chechen Parliament Khusain Akhmadov told a press conference on Tuesday.

First Deputy Speaker Bek Mejidov was instructed to head the Chechen delegation which will hold negotiations in Moscow on January 22-23 to work out the basic principles of the interstate treaty between Chechnya and the Federation as envisaged during January 14 meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray and Speaker of the Chamber of Nationalities of the Russian Parliament Ramazan Abdulatipov.

The Chechen proposals will be considered by local parliament on Wednesday. Chechnya is ready for a reasonable compromise in case it does not violate the sovereignty of the republic, Akhmadov said.

Chechnya and Tatarstan are two republics within Russia which proclaimed sovereignty. Tatarstan wants to be an associated member of the Federation and develop its relations with Russia on the basis of bilateral agreements.

Chechnya might follow suit. However, the Russian Constitution does not envisage any associated members in the Federation.

Mejidov regretted that President Dudayev does not want to join the parliament in its dialogue with Russia.

Yusup Soslambekov, chairman of the Chechen Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, added that if the president refuses to sign an acceptable treaty with Russia, "we shall hold a referendum and the people will make Dzhokhar Dudayev sign the treaty. We are building a state not for the president and the parliament, but for the people and future generations", he said.

The "IZVESTIYA" newspaper reported on Tuesday that the plane with Shakhray and Abdulatipov, who arrived for talks with Chechnya, had to fly over Groznyy for an hour as it was denied landing permission on orders from the Chechen president.

The persmission to land was received only after the leaders of the Chechen Parliament interfered.

"IZVESTIYA" explained Dudayev's position by the nervousness of his team over the fact that it was the parliament who initiated the dialogue. "The Chechen Republic is greatly interested in normalising relations with Russia and that political force which succeeds to achieve the normalisation first will gain great dividends", the newspaper said.

The obstacles erected on Shakhray's way to Groznyy were completely ungrounded, Chechen legislators said and hinted that the negative attitude to him on the part of the neighbouring Ingush people might have been another reason for that. Ingushes may not like Sergey Shakhray, but they should not get offended with Chechens for receiving him. He is deputy prime minister of the state which Ingushetia has voluntarily joined, they stressed.

Shakhray was head of the temporary administration in North Ossetia and Ingushetia after an interethnic conflict erupted there. Head of the Ingushi administration Ruslan Aushev, who is now the only candidate for the post of the president of Ingushetia, resigned in protest of what he said was a one-sided pro-Ossetian position of the temporary administration.

"The Ingushes have the right to build a state of their own", but they should know that "the borders of Chechnya must and will remain inviolable. We shall not yeild an inch of our territory to anyone", Soslambekov said.

Ingushetia and Chechnya comprised a single republic until Dudayev proclaimed himself the president of Chechnya and the republic split into two tiny parts. Chechnya insists that the borders between Ingushetia and Chechnya should correspond to 1934 frontiers when the two Transcaucasian republics were merged into one.

Dudayev Unhappy With Russian-Chechen Meeting

LD1601134993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1950 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 15 Jan—Dzhokhar Dudayev's speech at today's meeting of the heads of rayon administrations and the republic's public representatives, which was broadcast on local television, has perplexed the minds of the Chechnya's inhabitants, who received with some hope the beginning of the peace dialogue with Russia. The president of the Chechen Republic spoke disapprovingly about the results of the meeting and the meeting itself between the Russian and Chechen delegations which was held on 14 January in Groznyy, although the sides tried to find points of mutual understanding during yesterday's dialogue.

According to Dudayev, the meeting was not thoroughly prepared by either side. Talks with Russia, in his view, should be thoroughly prepared and every single point of any possible negotiations should be agreed with the people of Chechnya. Dzhokhar Dudayev reiterated that he himself is against any kind of confrontation and does not accept any forceable methods of resolving political problems.

Dudayev Supports Equal Rights With Russia

LD1601223993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2208 GMT 16 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, Jan 17 (TASS)—Head of the Chechen state committee on information and press Movladi Udugov has described as deliberate provocation the reports of some mass media bodies, saying Dzhokhar Dudayev counteracts negotiations with Russia, in a Saturday interview with ITAR-TASS.

He also rejected information on alleged yesterday meeting of the Chechen parliament addressed by the Chechen president. In his words, a report of the Russian Vesti news program, referring to the NEGA agency, misinterpreted Friday's speech of Dzhokhar Dudayev at a meeting of heads of regional administrations and republican public.

Udugov said the president and the Chechen Government have always advocated peaceful negotiations and achievement of agreements with the Russian Federation. The only thing they demand is that the republican state sovereignty be not infringed.

The Chechen president has in no way insulted in his speech Russian delegation heads Ramazan Abdulatipov and Sergey Shakhray. The Chechen committee head believes the opinion of Dzhokhar Dudayev is deliberately misinterpreted to please the forces that do their best to counteract the establishment of a peaceful dialogue between Russia and the Chechen republic.

Results of Groznyy Talks Viewed

PM1901115393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jan 93 pp 1-2

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Talks in Groznyy Give Hope of End to Confrontation in North Caucasus"]

[Text] The government aircraft carrying the delegation headed by R. Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian parliament's Soviet of Nationalities, and Russian Federation Government Vice Premier S. Shakhray spent nearly an hour circling over Groznyy before being given permission to land. And only after it had been reported to the ground that it had been decided to fly to Mineralnyye Vody did Groznyy give the go-ahead to land. All this time the fate of the Russian-Chechen talks on which both Moscow and Groznyy were pinning great hopes was hanging by a thread.

It was discovered after the landing that the order not to accept the aircraft from Moscow had come from presidential structures and only intervention at the last moment by the leadership of the Chechen government, by agreement with which the meeting was to take place, made it possible to eliminate the unpleasant incident.

Throughout the day of the talks, we repeatedly had very graphic proof of the degree to which contradictions between legislative and executive power—sufficiently familiar from Moscow—could be aggravated. The parliament building where the meeting took place was filled with submachinegunners from the guard of the legislators and the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples. In the middle of the day an armored personnel carrier escorted by two military trucks suddenly appeared under the parliament windows and rotated its turret and trained a machine gun on the parliament windows. A traffic jam immediately formed, a crowd assembled, and Yu. Soslambekov, leader of the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples, had to climb onto the personnel carrier and spend about 20 minutes persuading the president's guards to leave.

All this if, in addition, you consider that the day before the flight S. Shakhray received a telegram from D. Dudayev announcing that he could not guarantee his personnel safety, together with the rumors that an attempt was being prepared on Shakhray's life by the Ingush or the Ossetians. created a rather nervous situation around the talks.

It seems to me that there is one reason for all this ostentatious tension: The Chechen Republic today is extremely interested in normalizing relations with Russia and the political force which succeeds first in achieving this normalization will received substantial dividends. That is why one can understand the rather nervous response from the entourage of the republic's president to the fact that the initiative on this very important issue was in the hands of parliament.

As for the talks themselves, if we are to judge by results their progress was not particularly influenced by the nervous atmosphere surrounding them. At any rate the sides assess them with (quite understandably) restrained optimism.

R. Abdulatipov: "What we managed to achieved had not been achieved by anyone during the entire period of confrontation. If someone can do more today, we shall be glad of his efforts. I think that basically the aim of the visit was achieved. The most important thing was to determine the mechanism for our further mutual relations, including in preparing a treaty between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic. To some degree the concept of this treaty is included in the protocol we have signed."

S. Shakhray: "A protocol has been signed between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic. According to this protocol approaches toward the future treaty are defined, working groups have been formed, and the schedule for the groups' work has been set—through 31 January. In February the sides meet again to continue this work and, I hope, to initial the treaty. I think that the main importance of the protocol signed today is the important step taken by mutual consent toward normalizing the situation. Peace in the North Caucasus is peace throughout the Russian Federation."

Kh. Akhmadov, chairman of the Chechen Republic parliament: "Our further steps and actions to strengthen mutual relations with Russia are still hard to define. But today we outlined the basic principles for our advance toward appeasement in the region. We welcome the decision of the Seventh Congress of Russian People's Deputies (on recognizing the Chechen Republic—S. CH.) but the republic's status will be defined with a consideration for the wishes, consensus, and requirements which we have. We envisage sovereignty, independence, and freedom of action. But in an interdependent world we realize that to some degree our interests must be combined with the interests of others. And that means renouncing any particular aims and tasks which belong specially only to you personally."

The rhetorical nature of the formulations is entirely explicable if you consider the delicate nature of the question. The two sides made considerable compromises and it is to be supposed that their political opponents will lose no time in exploiting that. "I understand that there are very great forces which do not want our rapprochement, our conciliation, both in Russia and in the chechen Republic. And we shall oppose those forces," Kh. Akhmadov says.

The thrust of the results of the talks is that, having renounced their extreme demands, the two sides, seeking not to publicize the fact, have agreed to conclude a bilateral treaty establishing what are virtually federative relations between them. The nucleus of the future treaty should consist of provisions on the delimitation and mutual delegating of powers between Russia and the chechen Republic. The draft treaty proposes that Chechnya remains in the Russian economic, financial, and defense area. The Chechen-Georgian border is recognized as part of the single Russian border.

The talks in Groznyy were perhaps the most important episode in the North Caucasus trip of R. Abdulatipov and S. Shakhray. Essentially we can speak of the successful approval of Russia's new national and regional policy. As

we know, on the eve of the talks a session of the Russian Federation Security Council submitted a program for settling conflict situations in the regions. "The age-old communication, the processes of a large number of peoples coming into contact with each other have developed in the Caucasus, even at the genetic and cultural level and the historical experience of these peoples, mechanisms of self-regulation. And our task now is to arouse these mechanisms and put them into operation, the vice premier believes.

And so it looks as though Moscow is being transformed from the main Russian chief into an arbiter and adviser. The results of the conference of leaders of the republics and regions of the North Caucasus and of Rostov Oblast held 16 January in Kislovodsk. A North Caucasus coordination council has been created designed to play the main role in resolving the region's problems. The results of its first session have been quite effective—it has made a decision on the start of talks between Ingushetia and North Ossetia. At the wish of both sides, Dagestan and Stavropol Kray have been chosen as the mediators.

It seems important that Moscow's new approach toward the solution of regional problems, when the center is acting not in the role of elder brother but as an equal partner, have met with support from an influential force like the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples, which not so long ago removed the word "mountain" from its name which, in the opinion of a number of experts, opens the door to the participation of the Russian-speaking population in the work of the organization. The Confederation leaders have already stated their readiness to take part in the stabilization of the situation in the Caucasus. And not only in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict but also in Abkhazia. This was stated in particular by Yu. Soslambekov, one of the Confederation's leaders.

Ingush Congress Refuses Chechnya Merger

OW1801190493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1510 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Congress of People's Deputies was held in Nazrain this Sunday [17 January]. The deputies passed a resolution against the merging of their republic with Chechnya and against its exit from the Russian Federation. The document also contains calls for the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Ingushetia. The resolution also calls for the formation of Ingushetian law enforcment and internal security bureaus to be located, among other places, in the Prigorodniy Region, which is held in dispute between the Ingushetians and Ossetians. Ingushetian representatives are intent on holding talks with the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. Representatives of Kabardino-Balkaria, Chechnya, and Abkhazia were present at the Ingushetian People's Congress.

Furthermore, according to data supplied by the communications center of the Russian Internal Ministry, conditions have worsened over the past 24 hours in the zones of conflict in northen Ossetia and Ingushetia. Confiscation of firearms from the general population in continuing. In all, 45 people have been detained for breaking the curfew, 65 have been detained for misdemenours, 1700 cars have been searched, and of them, 15 detained.

On January 16, at 23:00 hours, an ex worker of the Ossetian Internal Ministry (a Chechian) was detained on the KPP-2 in Nazrain. A Macarova pistol was found and confiscated upon search of the suspect. The same day, and explosion occured in an Ingushian addministrative center. Authorities consider the explosion a result of careless conduct with a primed explosive device. One man died, five were wounded.

Yeltsin Signs Decree To Restore Order in Stavropol

LD2001195993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1751 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 20 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on Wednesday envisaging urgent measures to stabilise the situation in the Stavropol region, Southern Russia.

The decree was prompted by the growing wave of inter-ethnic conflicts, violations of public order, crimes involving arms and uncontrolled migration in the region, the Presidential Press Service said on Wednesday.

The decree imposes strict control over all migration processes in the region and allows law enforcement bodies to search people who are believed to be holding weapons. The document also empowers law enforcement bodies to step up efforts to fight illegal armed groups and confiscate weapons and other property if they are illegally taken out of the region.

Interior Ministry troops, Army and Security Ministry units, border guards and customs services stationed in the region will be reinforced.

Control over the implementation of the decree will be exercised by Vice-Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, the press service said.

Elections Not Permitted During N. Caucasus Crisis

LD2001112493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1009 GMT 20 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—The situation in the North Caucasus remains difficult, particularly in the region of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray said today during a report on the situation in this region to a session of the Russian parliament's Soviet of Nationalities. "Unfortunately, there are many preconditions for it worsening still further at the end of February or in March," he believes.

In the words of the vice premier, the refusal to disband the North Ossetian guards and local militia is a destabilizing factor in this region. Nevertheless, one should not lose optimism, Sergey Shakhray said. "There is contact with the leadership of North Ossetia and it looks as though there have been positive moves in the direction of this republic itself taking steps toward disbanding the guards and local militia," he noted. As for the leadership of the Russian Federation, it should "politically guarantee the security of the population of North Ossetia and its integrity."

Regarding the elections for president of the Ingush Republic announced for 24 January, Sergey Shakhray reiterated that no elections of any kind are permitted in the state of emergency region. But, he stressed, there could be no banning of elections by the use of armed methods. In this situation elections will evidently be announced, as stipulated in law, by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Roundtable on North Caucasus Opens

OW1501134893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1151 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sergey Shakhray, the Vice Premier and the chairman of the Russian State Committee on national relations, declared that today, the main task of Russian policy in the Caucasus is "the revival of the self-regulation mechanism of ethnic conflicts in this region." At the "round table", which was opened in Pyatigorsk on Friday [15 January], he reported that the issues concerning this region's problems had been discussed at the negotiations in Chechnya on the eve of this "round table." In Shakhray's opinion, while the Chechen republic remains in it's present state, "there is no way to settle the situation in the North Caucasian region as a whole." The Vice Premier pointed out that he is often and unjustly accused of adhering to forceful methods of solving the problems. However, he underlined that "the State committee on national relations strives to regulate the Federative treaty by peaceful means." Shakhray also stressed that one can use forceful methods only in those cases when "it is necessary to prevent bloodshed, to prevent attempts at armed solutions to political problems and to preserve the integrity of the Russian Federation." The chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the Russian parliament, Ramazan Abdulatipov, the representatives of public, political and national movements of the regions, all participated in the "round table".

Abdulatipov declared that the aim of this "organizational" meeting, is the creation of provisions for further contacts and meetings to be held for a more detailed examination of the problems existing in the North Caucasia. He expressed his hope that the forms to regulate regional conflicts will be developed in time and Pyatigorsk will acquire the status of "the Russian Geneva."

An Interfax correspondent reports that "the round table" plans to discuss issues concerning the creation of a coordinating body of the national movements and public forces of North Caucuses - a consultative conference which will acquire the status of a permanent coordinating center of non-governmental organizations and national movements of North Caucuses. "The round table" is also supposed to adopt a Declaration on principles of the inter-ethnic consent which is based on the idea of the peoples equality. In addition, the participants of the meeting are expected to adopt a statement to the peoples of the North Caucuses which determines the general principles in overcoming the ethnic conflicts, including the recognition and unconditional fulfillment of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the necessity to fulfil the Federative treaty, and the necessity to adopt a decree on national movements.

Established 'To Consolidate Forces'

OW1601175193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The representatives of political parties and national and social and political organisations from the North Caucasus have reached agreement on setting up a permanent "round table" to consolidate forces for maintaining peace and ethnic harmony in the region.

The participants of Friday's [15 January] first session, the theme of which was the "multi-ethnic North Caucasus-the search for ways of achieving harmony", passed a declaration on the principles of multi- ethnic relations in the region. The declaration proclaimed total restraint from any acts of force to alter the existing borders.

A statement which set down the general reasons for ethnic conflicts in the North Caucasus was signed.

A statement on the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia was also passed. This states that the settlement of the conflict will be possible only of Georgian troops are withdrawn from Abkhazian territory.

Chairman of the Russian Council of Nationalities Ramazan Abdulatipov, who attended the session, told a press conference afterwards that the participants of the Pyatigorsk meeting had achieved their principle aim-the revival of the tradition of dialogue as a means of resolving conflicts.

Further on Roundtable

PM1801160993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jan 93 p 1

[A. Yevtushenko report: "Accord Heads for the Hills"]

[Text] Pyatigorsk—The Caucasus has recently gotten into a right old mess. And in fact it has been ordinary people who have had try to sort it out. While the leaders of all colors at all levels have increasingly been thinking of how derive the most benefit from this for themselves. Then the

idea of establishing a regional interparliamentary association was mooted. The people's elected representatives crossed swords over this several times before deciding that this business had to be thought over at local level. They agreed to meet up again in November. At that time the idea of founding an interethnic accord center in Pyatigorsk was floated—a sort of "Caucasian Geneva." But November came and the North Caucasus exploded into war.

We can still rejoice that they have not at all been forgotten. And now the first round of the series of planned talks and meetings has been held here.

Having set a businesslike tone, the guests from Moscow listened attentively for several hours to those attending the meeting, 40 of whom had registered just to speak.

"It is still too early to judge the results of the present discussion," Sergey Shakhray told our correspondent during the recess. "But at the moment I am fairly pleased with the course of the meeting. The main idea has been aired here: Coordinated efforts to establish a peaceful life in the Caucasus should not be implemented from above, from Moscow, but from here, at local level, through the single North Caucasus center for national accord.

Last summer a government commission was already predicting that Mineralnyye Vody in the Caucasus would turn into a resort region conforming to the best world standards. Shall we not say "hear, hear"?

N. Caucasian Democratic Congress Formed in Stavropol

LD1801104093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0908 GMT 18 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Pyatigorsk, Stavropol Territory, January 18 TASS—The North Caucasian Democratic Congress was formed organisationally at a regional founding conference of parties and organisations of the general democratic, liberal and social-democratic trends in Pyatigorsk today.

The goal of the new public association is to stabilise the situation in areas torn by inter-ethnic conflicts, coordinate efforts to maintain the unity of the Russian Federation as a guarantor of the democratic development and social progress of all Russian peoples and to assist economic transformations.

The founders of the Congress stated their support of the declaration "on the principles governing inter-ethnic relations in Northern Caucasus" adopted by representatives of regional national movements at the final meeting of a round-table conference held also in Pyatigorsk two days ago.

Shakhray Favors Self-Regulation in N. Caucasus

OW1601175293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray, who chairs the State Nationalities Committee, has spoken in favour of setting up mechanisms for self-regulation in the North Caucaus. Shakhray opened a meeting of the region's heads of republic and administration in Kislovodsk Saturday [16 January]. He pointed out that although the North Caucasus was an integral part of Russia, this was a "special region, particularly in the economic sense." Shakhray said that meetings and talks between the region's heads of republics and administration should take place more frequently.

The discussion of urgent measures to bring stability to the North Caucasus and achieve the settlement of the conflict between North Ossetia and Ingushetia was proposed at the meeting, which is taking place behind closed doors. The meeting should be over by the end of today.

Interviewed on New Council

LD1601202793 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The center of political activity in the northern Caucasus shifted today from Pyatigorsk to Kislovodsk. The leaders of legislative and executive power in the region met here to find a way by joint efforts out of the difficult situation that has recently arisen in the northern Caucasus. Those attending the meeting decided to create a northern Caucasus coordinating council. This body is to help unite the efforts of the republics and krays in maintaining ethnic accord in the region, preventing and settling interethnic conflicts and other crisis situations in the northern Caucasus, and also strengthening the integrity of the Russian Federation. [video shows meeting in progress, cutting to interview with Sergey Shakhray, deputy chairman of the Russian Government and chairman of the Committee for Nationalities Policy]

[Shakhray] When legislative power and executive power act together the effect is immediately apparent. This coordinating council will work as a permanent body, once every three months unless the situation requires a more urgent conference.

[Unidentified correspondent] In general terms, how would you describe the situation in the immediate term in this region?

[Shakhray] The tense situation between Ingushetia and north Ossetia, and the situation in Prigorodnyy rayon, is automatically spreading to the whole region. There are empty sanatoriums here, the weather is wonderful, there are wonderful conditions for life and leisure, but people do not come because they are afraid. This fear must be removed.

In terms of security the situation is fully under control, both by the Russian structures and by the local authorities.

Speaker of N. Ossetian Parliament Fears Renewed Clashes

OW1701174493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Clashes between Ingush refugees and Ossetians now returning to North Ossetia's Prigorodny region are inevitable, the leader of the North Ossetian parliament, Akhsarbek Galazov, told INTERFAX. "People will try to revenge the death of their relatives", he said.

Leaders of the North Caucasian republics meeting in Kislovodsk on Saturday reached agreement on how and when the refugees would return to their homes. On the same day, representatives of Ingushi and Ossetian public groups meeting in Pyatigorsk had agreed on a package of measures to settle the regional conflict.

Galazov put the number of Ingushi refugees from the Prigorodny region and Vladikavkaz at more than 62,000 and that of Ossetians at nearly 7,000.

North Ossetia also has over 60,000 refugees who fled from South Ossetia last year.

Shakhray Interviewed on Work in N. Ossetia

PM2001113593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jan 93 p 1

[Interview with Sergey Shakhray, Russian vice premier and chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy, by A. Yevtushenko; place and date not given: "Sergey Shakhray: 'The State Committee for Nationalities Policy Is Not the Ministry of Trade, Where People Stand in Line for the Portfolio'"]

[Text] [Yevtushenko] Sergey Mikhaylovich, following your resignation from the post of adviser to the president and the completion of the well-known Constitutional Court trial, you would have been left out of work, as it were. Did the system of social protection for the upper echelons come into play when you were appointed to the post of chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy with the status of vice premier, or were there some other considerations?

[Shakhray] My resignation last May was not a chance step but a considered one. I realized that I had exhausted all possibilities in attempts at a legal settlement of the crisis of power that had come to a head. I did not want to sit there, importantly puffing out my cheeks, while I was aware of my own helplessness. When the Constitutional Court ended, I was in North Ossetia, where the war had already begun. By that time Tishkov had resigned from the post of chairman of one of the country's key departments. The president offered me this post by telephone.

[Yevtushenko] The Ingush side's main complaints against Georgiy Khizha, your predecessor in the role of head of administration of the state of emergency region, concerned his one-sided "pro-Ossetian" position. How have you managed to avoid similar "attacks"?

[Shakhray] The equal apportionment of attention to both sides is a psychological, pragmatic, and, if you like, historical reckoning which takes the region's traditions into account. When I realized that I must urgently travel to the conflict zone, I came up with the seminonsensical idea of pitching tents between the opposing sides and living there. History will provide its assessment of what Khizha did and how Shakhray worked there.

[Yevtushenko] En route to Pyatigorsk for a meeting with the leaders of public and national movements of the North Caucasus, Ramazan Abdulatipov and you visited Groznyy. I have heard that you were given a rather cool reception there.

[Shakhray] While we were still in the air, in the aircraft, we had learned that Groznyy did not wish to receive us. At first it was reported that the Chechen parliament was against this, then that President Dudayev was objecting. We were on the point of preparing to land at Mineralnyye Vody when we were given the "green light." You really can hear people at very different levels in Groznyy saying that the troops who have been brought up to the border with Chechnya only reveal an intention to occupy this republic. Such talk is vital to those who seek to hold on to power and to rally certain forces beneath the slogan of the threat from Moscow. Therefore the first thing that I did as head of the interim administration was to separate the Russian and Chechen troops to a safe distance—in which I was given considerable assistance by Chechen Vice Premier Mamadayev and by Soslambekov, leader of the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus.

President Dudayev ignored our visit to Groznyy. We had talks with the leadership of parliament and of the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus. The accords reached on the distribution of powers between Russia and Chechnya, the situation in the republic, and many processes taking place there have shown that our relations will be settled in one form or another. For this Dudayev does not need to be a politician of genius. He has simply to look at the situation in the republic and find out what the people want. Take a sober look at things and say: "Yes, without Russia Chechnya will not get anywhere either geographically, or economically, or politically." The Russian leadership must do the same. It is essential to be able to rise above imagined greatness. Russia is a state with hundreds of peoples which cannot be small or big. Why, after all, did we succeed in Groznyy in taking a step forward, albeit a small one, just one centimeter forward? We got away from debate, from terms, from statuses, sovereignties, and independence.

[Yevtushenko] A final question, Sergey Mikhaylovich, which might not be the most pleasant for you. What prompted you, having limited freedom of action for journalists in the conflict zone, to essentially become the father of censorship in the region?

[Shakhray] In general, I am opposed to all kinds of censorship. Particularly as this is enshrined in legislation.

But when the information war began at full throttle in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, I realized that something had to be done. For such materials, with or without attributions, intentionally or not, merely helped to fan strife and sometimes were simply inflammatory. Therefore it was necessary to tighten up the accreditation of journalists.

S. Ossetia Concerned Over Withdrawal of Peacekeepers

OW1801200793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The South Ossetian leadership is worried about the possibility that Russian-Georgian-Ossetian peacekeeping forces may pull out of the region, informed sources in Tskhinvali told INTERFAX. According to the sources, discussions on the issue began at an unofficial level after Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani returned recently from Moscow.

The Russian Defense Ministry neither confirmed nor refuted to INTERFAX the reports on the possible withdrawal of peacekeeping forces from South Ossetia.

Combined forces for keeping peace and maintaining law and order entered South Ossetia in accordance with an agreement on the principles of a settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, which was signed June 24, 1992, in Sochi by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

Meanwhile, Tskhinvali reports that circumstances in South Ossetia are becoming more intense. In the past few days Russian peacekeeping division posts were fired upon, and a 20 year old Ossetian was killed.

Peacekeeping Forces To Remain

LD1901221093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1057 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 19 January—Russian peacekeeping forces will remain in the Ossetia-Ingush conflict zone as long as is necessary to fully stabilize the situation in the Prigorodnyy rayon of North Ossetia. Major General Aleksandr Kotenkov stated this at a meeting with representatives of public organiztions and political parties of North Ossetia. He added that the state of emergency on the territory of North Ossetia is to be extended by two months (until 31 March).

Aleksandr Kotenkov stressed that it will only be possible to solve the conflict if the Ossetian and Ingush sides both take steps to meet each other halfway. In Aleksandr Kotenkov's opinion, among the negative factors which further destabilize the situation at present are the large quantity of firearms in the hands of population, the activities of armed formations in the region, and the suspension of POW exchange.

The head of the provisional administration also met public representatives of the Ingush republic in Nazran today.

A sitting of the presidium of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet was held today in Vladikavkaz. As the ITAR-TASS correspondent learned today, ways of stabilizing the situation in the region were discussed, and a North Ossetian delegation was formed to take part in the talks with representatives of the Ingush republic. The first meeting of the sides will take place on 23 January in Kislovodsk, with Dagestan and Stavropol kray acting as mediators.

South Ossetia Against Withdrawal

LD1901193193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1832 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz January 19 TASS—An expanded meeting of the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted today an appeal to the Russian government and Defence Ministry and the Mixed Control Commission for Settlement of the South Ossetian Conflict, saying, in particular, the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet is extremely alarmed with the Russian leadership's intention to withdraw peace-keeping forces from the Tskhinvali zone.

This fact is described as a gross violation of Sochiy agreements on Southern Ossetia and a factor of escalation of Georgian armed aggression against Ossetian civilians.

In this connection, the South Ossetian parliament calls on the Russian leadership to immediately postpone the decision on withdrawal of Russian peace-keepers, convene in the near future an extraordinary meeting of the Mixed Control Commission in Tskhinvali and give the peacekeeping forces an official status.

Moscow Consideration Noted

OW2101170393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moscow is exploring the possibility of removing the Russian peace-keeping force from South Ossetia, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official, who preferred to remain anonymous, confirmed on Thursday [21 January]. He said he did not have official information on whether the Russian leaders had taken any decision on the issue.

He said that the Georgian-Ossetian conflict had led to numerous victims, while the use of a Russian peacekeeping contingent, in July 1992, stabilized the situation in the region. "Our troops did a good job and proved that they were the guarantor of stability and security," he said.

He also admitted that plans to withdraw the Russian peace-keeping force from South Ossetia "have aroused fears among local civilians". Moscow is taking due account of these fears and of the possible international response, he added.

This foreign ministry official also expressed the hope that "even if the troops were removed from South Ossetia," the parties involved in the conflict will "have enough common sense" to preserve the fragile peace achieved at such great cost.

He did not comment on the causes of the Russian peacekeeping forces' possible withdrawal from South Ossetia, and addressed this question to the Russian Defence Ministry.

However, the Defence Ministry flatly refused to comment on these reports.

Observers do not exclude that, if the Russian peacekeeping force is removed from South Ossetia, the situation in that region may deteriorate. They explain this by the presence of forces in Georgia, who would not find peace in that region to their liking.

Agreement To Convene Ingush-N. Ossetia Commission

LD1601174393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1700 GMT 16 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent nikolai Styazhkin]

[Text] Kislovodsk, the Stavropol Territory, January 16 TASS—A conference of republican heads from northern Caucasus, Kuban, the Stavropol territory and the Don area, ended here today with an agreement to set up a conciliatory commission on settlement of the Ingush-North Ossetian conflict.

The conference was convened on the initiative of the Russian Supreme Soviet Council of Nationalities and the Russian State Committee on National Policy.

On mutual agreement of leadership of the Ingush republic and Northern Ossetia, Dagestan and the Stavropol territory will be mediators in preparations and holding of negotiations between the conflicting sides. The first meeting of the conciliatory commission is scheduled for January 23.

The Kislovodsk conference also set up a North Caucasian coordination council to become a standing body to coordinate policy, provide information for the activities of regional power bodies and analyze the whole range of arising issues.

Further on Ingush-Ossetian Agreement

LD1701150493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] An important document on the settlement of the Ossetian- Ingush conflict was signed in Pyatigorsk late on the evening of 16 January. Our special correspondent Margarita Lyangye reports that for the first time since the armed conflict began in Prigorodnyy Rayon, the Ossetian and Ingush sides have succeeded after long and difficult talks in agreeing on ways to get out of the critical situation. Within the framework of the roundtable—The Multi-Ethnic North Caucasus; The Search for Ways Toward Consensus—the Ossetian and Ingush delegations have signed an agreement in which they have laid down basic principles for stabilizing the situation.

Primarily, the agreement says that individuals who are guilty of preparing, organizing, and taking part in the armed conflict are to be made answerable for their actions before the law. It also proposes that all armed formations from both sides that are not provided for by Russian legislation be disarmed and disbanded. The Ossetian side has supplemented this point with the words: those formations that are not provided for by the laws of the republics. The sides have agreed to rebuild destroyed houses and villages in Prigorodnyy Rayon and to guarantee the safety of returning refugees. The Ingush side considers that by way of a guarantee, the Supreme Soviet of Russia should introduce a regime of special administration in Prigorodnyy Rayon. The agreement, which has been signed by public organizations from North Ossetia and Ingushetia, could be a first step in eliminating the consequences of the Ossetian-Ingush tragedy.

Calm Reported in North Ossetia, Ingushetia

LD1801065893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0643 GMT 18 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—The socio-political and present-day situation in North Ossetia and Ingushetia remains calm, units and detachments of the joint forces and Russian interior troops keep the situation under control and continue to maintain the regime of a state of emergency in the zone of the armed conflict.

No serious violations of curfew have been reported here over the past twenty four hours. Bad weather has helped the military to maintain order in the region. Traffic had been stopped on the roads following heavy snowfall, ITAR-TASS learned on Monday at the Russian Interior Ministry.

Situation Worsens

OW1801123093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A People's Congress, in which People's Deputies of many levels took part, was held in Nazrain this Sunday [17 January]. The Deputies accepted a resolution against the merging of their Republic with Chechnya, and against it's exit from the Russian Federation. Also, the document contains calls for the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Ingushetia. The resolution also calls for the formation of Ingushian Law Enforcement and Internal Security bodies, among other places, to be located in the Prigorodniy Region—the region held in dispute between the Ingushians and Ossetians. Ingushian representatives are intent on holding talks with the Supreme Soviet of the

Russian Federation. Representatives of Kabardino-Balkarii, Chechna and Abkhazia were present at the Ingshian People's Congress.

Furthermore, according to data supplied by the communications center of the Russian Internal Ministry, conditions have worsened over the past 24 hours in the zones of conflict in northern Ossetia and Ingushetia. Confiscation of firearms from the general population in continuing. In all, 45 people have been detained for breaking the curfew, 65 have been detained for misdemeanors, 1700 cars have been searched, and of them, 15 detained.

On January 16, at 23:00 hours, an ex worker of the Ossetian Internal Ministry (a Chechian) was detained on the KPP-2 [expansion unknown] in Nazrani. A Macarova pistol was found and confiscated upon search of the suspect. The same day, an explosion occurred in an Ingushian administrative center. Authorities consider the explosion a result of careless conduct with a primed explosive device. One man died, five were wounded.

Peacekeeping Forces in Control

LD1801112193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0955 GMT 18 Jan 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 18 Jan—There have been no serious changes in the socio-political and operational situation on the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia for the last 24 hours. Russian Federation peace-keeping forces are keeping the complicated situation under complete control and are continuing to carry out measures to maintain the state of emergency.

There was no exchange of hostages on the 17th January. At the same time a mixed commission in an attempt to resume this process is interviewing round the clock citizens who are searching for their relatives.

Reports from Nazran say that the congress of the Ingush people took place there. Delegates to the congress examined the socio- political situation in the region and the election of the president of the Ingush Republic. According to local observers, Maj Gen Ruslan Aushev, former head of the local administration, has the highest rating for this post.

Shooting Reported in North Ossetia

LD2001115393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1118 GMT 20 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz January 20 TASS—For about four hours unidentified persons fired from automatic weapons at the Sunzhen check point in the Prigorodny district of North Ossetia. Additional Russian interior ministry troops were moved there. The local armed conflict was settled. No casualties among the army personnel were reported.

Men from the investigation group of the Russian militia forces confiscated from local residents five grenades, several fire arms and hundreds of cartridges. According to the North Ossetian Interior Minister Major General Georgiy Kantemirov, some 150,000 pieces of various fire arms are being kept by the population, and some 1,500 dangerous criminals are being wanted by the law enforcement agencies.

According to the headquarters of the provisional administration in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, the situation in the conflict zone continues to be complicated, but it is fully under the control of the Russian peacekeeping troops.

International Affairs

Black Sea Fleet Forces Mistakenly Attack Ukrainian Post

LD2101173193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1622 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan—Last night a reconaissance-diversion sub-unit of the Black Sea Fleet Coastal Forces Marine Infantry made an accidental attack on an antiaircraft missile battery of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Air Defense Brigade during a planned combat readiness exercise.

This information was given to ITAR-TASS by Captain (third rank) Andrey Grachev, deputy chief of the Black Sea Fleet press center.

Eight marines, led by their commander (a lieutenant), were ordered to simulate an attack on a Black Sea Fleet communications center in the vicinity of Cape Fiolent, beside which there was a Ukrainian air defense brigade antiaircraft missile battery. In the darkness, the reconnaissance scouts confused the nearby military installations and simulated an attack on the battery instead of the communications center, infiltrating the unit. The marines set off several blank rounds and neutralized sub-unit personnel.

The Fleet Command is now carrying out an investigation into the incident. A staff member of the Fleet's press center stressed that the personnel of the Black Sea Fleet are strictly adhering to the Yalta and Dagomys agreements on the Black Sea Fleet. In this incident, he said, there was no deliberate design. It occurred through an annoying mistake, as the locations of the shore infrastructure installations of the Black Sea Fleet and the Armed Forces of Ukraine are intermingled, and it is difficult at times for servicemen to orient themselves in the situation of changing national subordination of service units.

Incident Termed 'Provocation'

OW2201115593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1113 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian navy's press-service regards an incident at Cape Fiolent as a provocation, sanctioned by the Black Sea fleet's command.

In the course of a planned exercise on January 21, a reconnaissance unit of the Black Sea coastal troops mistakenly attacked the compound of a Ukrainian antiaircraft division. In the dark, 8 marines mistook the compound for a Black Sea naval facility. They hurled explosive devices at the barracks and fired several blank gun shots.

The Ukrainian navy's press-service has urged the fleet's personnel to ignore criminal warrants with tragic consequences.

Meanwhile, a coordinating council of Black Sea officers at its session on Thursday called on the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine to move the Ukrainian naval headquarters out of Sevastopol; at the meeting, this was described as the main trouble-maker in the fleet.

Black Sea Fleet Officers Demand Solution to Problems

OW2101201493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Black Sea Fleet officers on Thursday [21 January] held a meeting in Sevastopol, demanding that the economic blockade of the fleet be lifted and all its material and technical problems be immediately solved.

"We resolutely condemn the acts of Rear-Admiral Borys Kozhyn (commander of the Ukrainian navy), which serve to destabilize the situation in the fleet," says the meeting resolution. "The conduct of the general staff of the Ukrainian navy forces us to demand that the fleet headquarters be moved outside the premises of the Sevastopol garrison."

The officers say they reserve for themselves the right to solve their own problems "by the means they have at their disposal" unless this is done by the Russian and Ukrainian leaderships before February 10.

Plyushch Writes Khasbulatov on Sevastopol Issue

LD2201121193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament, Ivan Plyushch, has sent a letter to the head of the Russian Parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, in which he sharply assesses the debates in the Supreme Council of Russia on the Sevastopol problem.

The Sevastopol problem under discussion in the Russian parliament is assessed in the letter—the text of which was circulated today by the news agency UKRINFORM—as a relapse of the past, an attempt to subdue Ukraine, as well as an attempt to set the two nations one against the other and lead them to bloodshed.

In declaring that the Sevastopol problem is fabricated, Ivan Plyushch condemned the setting up of a deputy commission for studying this issue and declared that the immediate curtailment of the activity of this commission would be highly assessed by the world community as a convincing sign of goodwill which would confirm indeed the aspiration of the Russian democratic state to live in peace and accord with all its neighbors.

Servicemen Dismissed From Fleet for Loyalty Oaths

LD1501190393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian command of the Black Sea Fleet is still not pleased with those who have a sympathetic attitude to

the idea of setting up Ukrainian Naval Forces. Those servicemen who swear an oath of allegiance to the people of Ukraine are immediately dismissed with the formula—in accordance with an official incompatibility. This very verdict was pronounced on Lieutenant Serhiy Hrynchuk, Senior Lieutenant Yuriy Sharlay, Captain First Rank Yevheniy Lupakov, and also six other officers of the Black Sea Fleet. By order of the Minister of Defense of Ukraine, all of them have been reestablished on active military service.

Kravchuk Telegram To Clinton Urges 'Fruitful' Dialogue

LD2101201993 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1720 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] UKRINFORM has just passed the text of a telegram which is being sent to the American President. It states: Highly respected Mr President: In the name of the people of Ukraine and from myself personally I have the great honor to welcome you on the occasion of the official assumption of the post of the 42nd president of the United States of America. Once again I want to assure you, Mr President, that we are prepared to continue the fruitful bilateral dialogue which has been established at the level of the higher leaders of Ukraine and United States of America and the active cooperation with the new administration in the further development of relations between our two states on the principles of an equal democratic partnership. I sincerely wish you the greatest success.

Signed with deep respect, Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine.

Ukraine Will Pay Foreign Debt; Must Receive Assets

LD2101233593 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Ukraine will repay its foreign debt on its own, stated Ihor Yukhnovskyy, first vice prime minister, at a news conference. He added that in turn Ukraine also has the full right to receive its share of assets. Both in the first and the second case, our state's share is 16.37 perent. With regard to paying off the external debt whose size is today calculated at sums of billions, noted the first vice prime minister, we have reached agreement with Russia that now every country will repay its share separately. Apart from this the question of Ukraine receiving part of the hard currency receipts from the sale of military hardware whose components are manufactured in Ukraine was put before the Russian side at the negotiations in Moscow.

Liberal Party Statement on 22 Jan Minsk Summit

LD1701110593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] The issue of signing the draft CIS Charter will be discussed at the meeting of heads of state of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Minsk on 22 January. The Liberal Party of Ukraine has made a statement in connection with the forthcoming event. In particular, the document reads as follows:

The Liberals cannot agree with those who associate signing or not signing the charter by Ukraine with the issue of the latter remaining in the CIS, and of the destiny of the Commonwealth.

Neither at the meeting with representatives of political parties on 4 January 1993, nor in the mass media or at any conferences whatsoever has the president of Ukraine ever spoken of the secession of Ukraine from the CIS. On the contrary, he has stressed that it is necessary for Ukraine, from an economic point of view, to remain in the Commonwealth.

The Liberal Party of Ukraine can distinguish two issues, i.e., the signing of the charter and Ukraine remaining in the commonwealth.

The Liberal Party's program and statement, as long ago as in September 1991, came out in favor of the freedom of enterprise, the freedom of movement of labor and capital, the freedom of speech and will, and the openness of borders for free economic, cultural and information exchange between the countries on the territory of the former Soviet Union. The same approach also determines the attitude of the party toward the Commonwealth and Ukraine's destiny in it.

In the opinion of the Liberal Party of Ukraine, it is advisable at the Minsk meeting to discuss not the CIS Charter, but the development and further adoption of general principles of mutual relations between the Commonwealth countries. The Liberals are of the opinion that exactly this approach to solving the given problem is most optimal, mutually beneficial and rational. It also gives Ukraine, as well as the other countries of the economic union, an opportunity to enter a civilized market and the world community, and in so doing to preserve its national interests and state independence.

Kuchma Asks Kohl to Hurry Implementation of Agreements

LD2001200493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1936 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Kiev January 20 TASS—Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma had a telephone conversation with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Wednesday [20 January] to discuss measures to speed up the implementation of previous agreements.

They talked specifically about two contracts reached between a Ukrainian pharmaceutical factory and its German partners to supply the republic with medicines.

Kuchma asked Kohl to help facilitate German supplies of equipment, spare parts and other commodities to Ukraine's industry, transport, medicine, communal services and agro-industrial complex which were previously supplied to the Soviet Union.

National Affairs

Supreme Council Holds Sixth Session 20-21 Jan

Kuchma Reports on Economy, CIS

LD2101124793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The full scale sitting of the sixth session of the Supreme Council of Ukraine was to have resumed in Kiev today but because of the social tensions in society resulting from the recent hike in prices and aggravation of the political situation part of the deputies didn't register their presence at the sitting. As a result, that which took place today at the Supreme Council was called a joint sitting of the standing commissions of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, together with Ukraine's president and prime minister. The chosen form of work didn't oblige the deputies to adopt any obligatory decisions.

A report was delivered by Ukraine's Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma. He characterized the state of the republic's economy, singling out that the deep economic crisis in Ukraine is due to the process of disintegration and decolonization of the Ukrainian economy. This process in Ukraine is being marked by a drop of the national income by 14 percent, as well as a decrease in the productivity of labor by (?16) percent. In the past year the output of consumer goods dropped by 10.9 percent, including foodstuffs by 14.9 percent. The major part of the report delivered by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma was dedicated to strategic trends taken by the government to pull Ukraine's economy out of the crisis.

The concuding part of the prime minister's report dealt with the economic relations of Ukraine with Russia and other republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Leonid Kuchma stressed that under conditions of political stability Ukraine and Russia could agree to mutually beneficial equal partner agreements. Political stability is the prerequisite for the further economic development of Ukraine.

Further Kuchma Comments

LD2201131693 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The economic crisis in Ukraine could develop into a crisis of power. When speaking in parliament, the prime minister of the republic, Leonid Kuchma, described the situation as a total crisis. He said the state budget deficit has reached an astronomical figure of 1.325 trillion coupons in the national money. The people are impoverished as a result of the sharp drop of production. The prime minister laid the blame for such a situation on the Supreme Soviet of the republic and the previous government. In such a state of affairs the parliament opposition has actually blocked the work of the supreme legislative body demanding withdrawal of Ukraine from the Commonwealth of Independent Sates. In response to that, the people's deputies from Donetsk, Lugansk, and other big cities said that if the opposition tries to undermine the work of the Supreme Soviet they will call on the people to stage a general strike.

Nationalists 'Sabotaging' Session

LD2101223293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1256 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Kiev, 21 Jan—For the second day, deputies representing "Narodnaya Rada"—a bloc comprising several nationalist parties—have been openly sabotaging the work of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. Neither yesterday nor today have they registered in the hall, but they have not left it either. Because of this, the meeting cannot be declared plenary, although more than 260 deputies have confirmed, in repeated reregistrations, that they are participating in the session. And a joint session cannot make any decisions.

At today's session, this situation aroused the indignation of the deputies. The representatives of Lugansk, Donetsk and a large number of other oblasts walked out. A recess was announced, and this lasted for over three hours instead of the intended half-hour. After the recess, a statement signed by all deputies of Lugansk oblast and also by deputies from several other oblasts was read out.

The statement explains once again the position of those people's deputies who have been insisting that the session open earlier than scheduled. The need to convene it has arisen because of the country's dire economic situation and because the people have been brought to an extreme and critical point. The authors of the statement describe as disinformation and lies the accusation that they are trying to rehabilitate the CPSU, the CIS charter, and the State Committee for the State of Emergency.

"We once again declare to the whole people that our aim, together with the government, is to find a more rational way for Ukraine to emerge from its crisis; and, further, to remove the mistakes in the decrees which have virtually paralyzed the country's economy," the statement says. The deputies from the industrial oblasts again demand that the normal work of the session should begin, calling on the people of Ukraine to keep calm and on the Supreme Soviet Presidium to be reasonable.

The statement says: "In the event of the work of the session being blocked by the Supreme Soviet Presdium, it is the presidium that will bear the full responsibility for this. And we reserve the right to solicit the support of our constituents and labor collectives."

Today's second sitting lasted less than half an hour, after which, during another recess, the deputies' names were registered in writing at the tables. Only then was the plenary meeting of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine declared open.

Socioeconomic 'Crisis' Discussed

OW2101172493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [21 January], the Ukrainian parliament reduced the agenda of the session which had opened on Thursday to the discussion of ways of overcoming the current socioeconomic crisis and providing the population with social guarantees. The idea to do so had been proposed by the parliament's presidium during the extraordinary enlarged session on Thursday morning in view of the fact that for the second day running the session could not begin its work in the absence of the quorum.

The Narodnaya Rada alliance reiterated its refusal to take part in the session. It claims that the extraordinary session was initiated by the pro-communist deputies to "accomplish a constitutional coup".

Narodnaya Rada is a parliamentary alliance uniting the national-democratic factions. It accounts for one forth of the deputies' corps.

'Problems' at Session Reported

LD2201140993 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Report by Svitlana Korotych]

[Text] The atmosphere in the session hall on 21 January was even more tense than (?on the previous day). The cornerstone was again the issue of whether to hold a plenary session or a joint session of parliamentary commissions with the government. The issue was the fact that even fewer deputies had registered than the previous day.

Members of the Narodna Rada [People's Council] again did not register. They spoke against holding plenary sessions right away. I will remind you that the Narodna Rada advocated beginning a plenary session on 25 January, after the Council of CIS Heads of State ends in Minsk.

The issue of how the work of the session was to proceed was not decided and, 15 minutes into the session, a half-hour break was announced. It was decided to assemble the presidium in order to ascertain what sort of session it was to be. The half-hour break lasted for longer than two hours.

After the break, a representative of the Lugansk delegation appeared with a statement. The Lugansk delegation had left the session hall before the break, together with the delegation from Donetsk Oblast. The statement called for the work of the session to continue. This document had been signed by some parliamentarians from other oblasts, as well as by deputies from Lugansk Oblast.

After this, Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, who was chairing the session, announced the presidium's decision: the fact that there was no more important issue than the socioeconomic situation and that it was mandatory to discuss it. The former decision by the presidium was also confirmed—to convene the session immediately.

In the name of the presidium, Durdynets proposed that registration of people's deputies by name be carried out and, at the same time, that their agreement to examine only the socioeconomic situation be confirmed. This proposal was not successful.

Supreme Council Deputy Chairman Volodymyr Hrynyov introduced a new procedure—to carry out a roll call of deputies so that all those wishing to could officially refuse publicly to take part in the session. This proposal was not successful either.

Then the deputies were sent off to officially register by name (?and in writing) at the tables. Even less than in the morning, 226 parliamentarians registered. Relying on the temporary regulations that allow work to continue if the number of deputies in the session hall is more than half of the total, Durdynets declared the plenary session open.

The socioeconomic situation in Ukraine was introduced for examination at the session. Twenty-nine people's deputies spoke and submitted a number of proposals. Several specific draft resolutions and laws were also submitted. The commission handling issues of legislation and law and order submitted specific proposals regarding organizing the work of the Ukrainian parliament under conditions of which part of its legislative powers would be delegated to the government.

In connection with the need to discuss and elaborate on (?official) drafts of proposals that had been heard in parliament on 21 January, it was decided that the work of the session would continue in standing commissions on 22-23 January. The plenary sessions (?are) to begin on Monday, 25 January.

Crimean Supreme Council Chairman Against Border Changes

LD2101231093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1605 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The Crimea comes into the composition of Ukraine. We are against engaging in a new demarcation of borders. This was stated in the press by Mykola Bahrov, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea. Having touched on the issue of the call made in the Crimean parliament to renew the country of soviets, Mykola Bahrov said in particular, I quote: Today, independent states have arisen from the republics that have been recognized by the world community. To think that the Union will soon appear in the same way as it went in Belarus is not serious and is irresponsible.

Communists 'Noticeably' Increase Activity in Crimea

LD2101233093 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1720 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Former Communist Party structures of Crimea have recently noticeably increased their activity. Vasyl

Parkhomenko, former first secretary of the local Communist Party and now head of the local organization of the Socialist Party, stated during a meeting with journalists that more than 30 primary organizations of this party are already active in Sevastopol. Points about the recognition of the Russian language as the second state language in Ukraine, and also about the renewal of the USSR, form part of the party's program of demands.

Politician Asserts Missiles Still Aimed at U.S., West

AU2101135193 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 19 Jan 93 p 4

[Kostyantyn Paryshkura report: "An Anti-Imperial Front Has Been Created"]

[Text] On 15 January, Mykola Porovskyy, deputy chairman of the National Democratic Forces Coalition [KNDS], member of the KNDS parliamentary faction, and Ukraine's people's deputy, spoke at the news conference on the campaign initiated by a group of Supreme Council deputies from Lugansk Oblast. As has become known, these deputies dispatched telegrams to all deputies of Ukraine's Supreme Council with a proposal to convene on 18 January an extraordinary session of the Supreme Council and discuss the question on the CIS statute and cancellation of the ban on the activity of Ukraine's Communist Party. The proposal to hold an extraordinary session was made by the deputies without coordination with the presidium. M. Porovskyy stated that over 200 signatures had been collected in favor of discussing the question on canceling the ban on the activity of Ukraine's Communist Party, which does not, however, mean that all of these deputies are explicitly in favor of allowing the activity of the Communist Party. M. Porovskyy, on behalf of the KNDS leadership and its parliamentary faction, referred to the campaign as an attempt to revive communism in Ukraine and incorporate it into a renewed imperial structure. He also spoke about the results of the trip by a group of deputies of Ukraine's Supreme Council to the 43d Rocket Army of the CIS that is stationed in Ukraine. None of its officers took the oath of allegiance to the people of Ukraine, although sociological polls indicate that 80 percent of them are ready to do this. The position of the CIS command prevents doing this. M. Porovskyy stated that, just like before, the missiles remain aimed at the United States and western countries and, therefore, Ukraine remains Russia's nuclear hostage.

On 16 January at the headquarters of the Ukrainian Republican Party, 16 regional Kiev organizations created an Anti-Imperial and Anti-Communist Front (AAF) whose goal is to prevent the return of communists to power or the incorporation of Ukraine into a suprastate structure which the CIS must become, in accordance with the new statute. A campaign is under way for the creation of the AAF on a republic scale.

Communist Deputies Oppose Defense Minister, President

LD2101232593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1605 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The Congress of National Democratic Forces of Ukraine has issued an appeal to its compatriots. In particular it notes that the Communist Party majority in the Supreme Council of Ukraine has again presented its true face. Activists of the 239 deputies' group are collecting signatures in support of the dismissal of Kostyantyn Morozov, minister of defense of Ukraine, for renewal of the activity of the criminal organization the Communist Party of the Soviet Union-Communist Party of Ukraine, and for a delcaration of no confidence in the president of Ukraine

The document contains a call to all political parties and civic organizations to speak at this critical time for Ukraine as a united anti-imperial, anticommunist front.

Vice Premier Says 'Ukraine Is A Sinking Ship'

OW1701174293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's trade unions on Friday [15 January] made demands for an urgent discussion by parliament of social issues at a joint meeting of the presidium of the republic's federation of trade unions and the parliamentary commission for social issues and employment. The unions are demanding fixed prices for basic food products. Those who attended the meeting pointed out that food prices had risen 5-10 times after a decree on price regulation was passed by the cabinet of ministers.

The unions also proposed that the president and cabinet of ministers take measures to stabilise economic relations with the CIS nations.

Ukrainian Vice-Premier Viktor Pynzennyk told the meeting that the liberalisation of prices for agricultural products was the only way out of the situation which had arisen. The republic would otherwise, he said, have had to find 5 trillion karbovantsy for subsidies for 1993.

The vice-premier said that the government intended to complete its investigation into instances of unjustified excessive price increases by several monopolist enterprises. If these instances were to be confirmed, Pinzennik said, those enterprises would be fined in the same way as the "Ukrzalyznitsia" company had already been.

Pynzennyk confirmed that the government intended to halt the decline in manufacturing in light and food industries by the end of the year. He stressed that the state planned to grant assistance only to citizens who were physically unable to work. The vice-premier appealed to trade unions to co- operate with the preparation of government decrees. "Ukraine is a sinking ship," he said. "If we rock this boat, then we will all fall to the bottom."

Belarus

Stankevich Sees Warsaw Visit as Productive, Positive

LD2101142793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Potyomkin]

[Text] Warsaw January 21 TASS—Addressing a press conference here today, presidential adviser on political affairs Sergey Stankevich spoke positively about his visit to Warsaw at the invitation of the Federation of Katyn Families and the Polish president's chancery. Stankevich had a series of meetings with Polish public leaders and politicians, members of the cabinet and parliamentarians. He also had a talk with premate of the Catholic Church in Poland Cardinal Jozef Glemp.

It was noted during the press conference that his meetings and talks focused primarily on preparations for President Yeltsin's first state visit to the Republic of Poland, which is expected to take place in the middle of this year. Both sides want to make it concrete and resultative, which will contribute to the development of political and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Stankevich told ITAR-TASS that the preparation of important state functions always included an official part, i.e. the work of experts on documents, and a humanitarian-political part. The latter is called upon to improve the climate in relations among rank-and-file citizens, to promote their mutual understanding, as well as to establish contact with the most influential public organisations and to look into the historical aspects of bilateral relations. "My work here," Stankevich said, "pursued this moral goal and was aimed at psychologically conditioning public opinion. To my mind, we were able to further promote mutual understanding and make the Polish society realise the importance and responsibility of the present stage of Russo-Polish relations."

The press conference was told that Stankevich was taking back a letter to President Boris Yeltsin from the Polish President Lech Walesa. It was also stressed that the official part of the preparations for Yeltsin's voyage would be rounded off by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Warsaw.

Military Unit in Brest To Be Disbanded

WS2001133493 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 0956 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] The municipal authorities of Brest will soon acquire much land and numerous buildings, and not for free, but for a large sum of money that they will have to pay the military. According to the order of the Belarusian Defense Ministry on the reduction of Armed Forces in the Republic, one of military units will be disbanded in Brest. The base will be taken by another unit, stationed in the very center of town, called the "Northern Barracks." The transfer will enable the inhabitants of Brest to solve some of their urgent social and other problems. The Army intends to invest the money received for its property in the construction of barracks and housing for officers.

Foreign Minister on Cooperation, Agreements With China

WS1901134693 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1313 GMT 14 Jan 93

["Diplomacy Is a Subtle Thing"—BELINFORM headline]

[Text] "Belarus is entering a stage of improvement of its diplomatic infrastructure, which means that the relations established with other countries are being 'swaddled' with bilateral agreements," said Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka in an interview to a BELINFORM correspondent after the visit to China. "We have already signed 11 documents with the People's Republic of China. A two-year long cooperation is a good thing.

The main document signed by Stanislav Shushkevich and Yang Shangkun at the end of the visit is a joint Belarusian-Chinese statement. [passage indistinct] regulating the life and activities of our citizens on the territory of China, the issues of transit, inheritance, and others. It is this document that enables the full implementation of bilateral relations. Two agreements on visa-free travel for individuals and tourist groups have been concluded. This will simplify numerous formalities for those people who are interested in China as a trade partner or an exotic place for tourism.

Another document—an agreement on cooperation between the two Foreign Ministries—provides for permanent consultations, exchange of views, and talks on the eve of major international forums. Moreover, China is already the second great power after France with which we have signed similar agreements. I will not be modest in saying that this a great cause because it will determine our future relations.

During the [word indistinct] with Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng at the Foreign Ministry, we discussed the issue of China's support for Belarus in the event of its nomination to the UN Security Council as a temporary member, and also its support for the Belarusian request to reduce its fee to the UN budget." [quotation marks as received]

The foreign minister said in conclusion that in February, Belarus would open its mission in China.

Chernobyl Committee Adopts Budget, Priorities

WS2001133593 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 0956 GMT 16 Jan 93

["No One Can Economize on Disaster"—BELINFORM headline]

[Text] The meeting of the Supreme Council Committee for the Chernobyl Disaster has considered one chapter of the government economic program for 1993 presented by the State Chernobyl Committee.

The Supreme Council Press Bureau informs that the committee approved of the chapter with a budget of 165.2 billion rubles (at prices predicted in 1993) and capital investments of 99.4 billion rubles to overcome the consequences of the disaster.

The resolution affirms the inadmissibility reducing capital investments compared with those provided for in the state program for overcoming the effects of the disaster in 1990-1995, adopted by the Supreme Council, or reducing the funds allotted for the implementation of respective Belarusian laws and programs.

It was recommended that the Council of Ministers finance the capital investments in construction using funds from the state budget, and other expenses, using funds from the Chernobyl emergency tax. The government priorities should be financial support for the development of the country's health facilities, the construction of factories processing baby food and pharmaceutical enterprises; the construction of housing, social, and cultural centers; the production of building materials; and ensuring the effectiveness of measures for the social security of those citizens who have been affected by the disaster.

Border Guards Faced Increasing Problems in 1992

PM1501162193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 1

[Valeriy Kovalev report under the "From our Information Office" rubric: "Belarusian Border Guards Have Enough Cares"]

[Text] Minsk—Last year was not an easy one for the Belarusian border guards. This was announced by Major General Yevgeniy Bocharov, commander of border troops, at a session of the collegium of the Border Troops Main Administration—of which he is chief—under the Republic of Belarus Council of Ministers.

In 1992, 489 people were detained trying to violate the state border, which is 20 percent more than the year before last. Of these, 196 were attempting to pass through border controls using false visas and documents. Various kinds of contraband worth more than 30 million rubles were confiscated. A total of 9.9 million people passed through checkpoints, and 892,000 vehicles were checked.

National Front Seym Holds Session, Discusses Strategy

WS1901134493 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 0649 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The ordinary session of the Belarusian National Front [BNF] Seym was devoted to the issue of the BNF's role in the country's political life. In fact, it defined the BNF strategy for the future more precisely. The majority of the participants spoke out in favor of the front's central orientation. Others were drawn to Christian Democratic values. The BNF Congress will have the final say. The ordinary session must set a date for this congress.

Moldova

Peacekeeping Vehicle Comes Under Fire in Bendery

OW2101171693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [20 January] evening, in Bendery, a vehicle belonging to the armed contingent of Moldovan peace-keeping forces came under fire, an INTERFAX corespondent reported from Chisinau. The vehicle was assaulted by automatic weapon fire, from the direction of one of the border posts of the Pridnestrovian Border Patrol, not far from Bendery. The posts are supported by guardsmen from the Pridnestrovian battalion "Dnestr". There were no casualties.

In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX, the governmental advisor to the President of Moldova, Nikolae Kirtoake, commented on the incident by saying that the border posts in Bendery contravene the Russian-Moldovan agreement regarding the maintenance of a "safety zone" in that region. "The attack on the vehicle of the Moldovan peace-keeping forces, can be regarded as nothing other than premeditated provocation," he stated.

Kirtoake insisted that it was imperative to "clear up, who gave the order to station the border patrol, and to open fire." He expressed his regret that "with the approaching stabilization of the situation in Pridnestrovye, forces are activating, who do not find this turn of events profitable."

He also expressed his surprise at the fact that the Russian peace-keeping contingent is taking any steps towards fulfilling its obligations as regards the removal of armed formations, of any side what-so-ever, from Bendery.

A Joint Control Commission, together with the commanders of the peace-keeping forces, will meet Thursday to examine the incident, Kirtoake announced.

The INTERFAX corespondent also reported that, the 3rd round of Chisinau-Tiraspol talks have been postponed till Friday, since several members of the delegation have to take part in a sitting of the Moldovan Parliament, on Thursday.

Further on Snegur's Referendum Proposal

PM2101155593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 2

[Svetlana Gamova report: "Chairman of Moldovan Parliament Opposed to Referendum Proposed by President"]

[Text] Chisinau—Molodovan Parliament Chairman A. Mosanu is against the referendum proposed by the republic's President M. Snegur.

If held, he remarked, "this referendum would be of an anti-Romanian nature" and would signify an undoubted "turn toward Russia." It is from the latter, in the speaker's opinion, that a danger to the republic's independence

stems. The source of this danger was even indicated—"Russia's pro-imperial circles," which employ all means, including the 14th Army, to preserve their zone of influence. "The 14th Army's control over the Dniester Region is one of the levers being used to bring us to our knees," the chairman of parliament remarked.

It is his conviction that the role of such a lever is played by the CIS, which is essentially "a platform for reanimating the Union."

The stormy debate which began in parliament after the statement which the Moldovan president made 24 December has also spread to deputies at lower levels. The local authorities in villages are holding sessions and determining their attitude to the possible referendum. The majority of the decisions adopted support the president.

The heightened interest in what happens within the walls of parliament is understandable. Moldova, which once again finds itself at a crossroads, according to Snegur, must choose its path: either independence, which is consistently championed by the president and the parliamentary majority, or an accelerated move across the Prut River and the merging of two Romanian states. The latter is seen as the way out by the opposition, mainly represented by the Moldovan People's Front. It is joined by a section of parliament's presidium. The statement by its chairman, who openly proclaimed his disagreement with the president's position, dotted all the "i's," clearly designating the distribution of forces both in parliament and in the republic as a whole.

According to the data of a sociological poll conducted in Moldova at the beginning of the year, the sympathies and trust of the population have gone to the president. The government's rating is three times lower, with just 8 percent of those polled expressing support for parliament. This is perfectly understandable because, in addition to the question of the referendum, there was a proposal to renew the corps of deputies by holding reelections to organs of power at all levels.

Three clubs of deputies, representing the majority in parliament, have proposed a draft decree setting, in addition to the timing of the referendum, the time allocated for defining the status of Moldova's eastern parts and resolving the "Gagauz question." According to Deputy N. Andronik, one of the authors of the aforementioned draft, failure to resolve these problems means preprogramming the nonfulfillment of several very important laws of the republic. The draft proposes that the population express its opinion on the first two articles of the Moldovan Constitution, which proclaim the republic an independent, unified, and indivisible state and enshrine the rights of the people alone to change this status through a referendum.

Four draft decrees have been submitted to parliament. The next few days will show which will be adopted. Addressing parliament, Snegur reaffirmed his previous position—the state's independence and consultation with the people.

Deputy Factions Boycott

OW2101193893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [21 January] the parliamentary factions of the deputies - agrarians, of the independent deputies, and of the group "Consent" refused to participate in the session of the Moldovan parliament. This occurred after the representatives of the Christian-democratic popular front's faction managed to block the draft resolution on President Mircea Snegur's statement on the republic's state independence the day before at the end of the evening session.

In contrast to the drafts proposed by the members of the parliament's Presidium it foresaw a conduction of the republican referendum on March 28. Two major articles of the new Constitution fixing independence and statehood of Moldova were supposed to be presented at the nationwide plebiscite.

The representatives of the Popular front apposed this idea as they believe that this referendum "will make the consequences of Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact legal and will make the prospects of further integration with Romania doubtful."

The representatives of the faction of the deputies - agrarians, of the independent deputies, and of the group "Consent" believe that the parliament's leadership supporting the Popular Front has exerted pressure on the deputies and falsified the results of the voting; they left the sitting hall manifesting their protest.

Beginning Thursday morning consultations are underway due to the situation in the deputies factions.

Independence Divides Parliament

LD2101210793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2004 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau January 21 TASS—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur's statement calling to strengthen Moldova's independence has practically split the Moldovan Parliament into supporters and opponents of the unification with Romania, which triggered a parliamentary crisis. The majority of deputies' factions supported the Moldovan president and demanded that a resolution be adopted on Snegur's statement which envisages holding a referendum in Moldova. The majority of Moldovan deputies believe that during the referendum the people themselves should decide whether Moldova becomes an independent state or unites with Romania.

The results of the voting are practically predetermined, since during numerous polls the number of supporters of the reunification with Romania has not exceeded 10 per cent.

However, the parliament minority, consisting of one-third of deputies who share the position of the Christian Democratic People's Front, managed to block the decision. The front supporters backed by the parliament leaders who joined the opposition to the president took advantage of the parliament procedure saying that a half of deputies' votes on the parliament list are needed to pass a decision.

Their plan has worked. The absence of a number of deputies from Dniester region and Gagauzia and the failure of some deputies to turn up at the session led to the lack of one vote necessary to adopt a decision on the referendum. As a result, the majority of deputies walked out, ascribing it to the conspiracy of the parliament leaders opposing the referendum.

As a result, the parliament has failed to resume its work on Thursday [21 January]. Observers believe that the crisis has shown that at present the Moldovan Parliament is unable to adopt cardinal decisions, which is likely to lead to the dissolving of the parliament this year and holding new elections on a multi-party basis.

Poll Reveals Majority Rejects Joining CIS, Romania

AU1601151693 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Vlad Glinca report]

[Excerpts] President Mircea Snegur's statement made in Parliament, according to which the population ought to be consulted on cardinal issues related to the fate of the country, was misinterpreted as a call for the organization of a referendum concerning the future status of the Republic of Moldova. [passage omitted]

With respect to the mentioned issue, a public opinion poll was conducted between 4-11 January 1993 by the National Institute of Sociology. The poll was conducted among the population living between the Prut and Dniester Rivers, thus excluding the population living in the eastern part of the country [in the Dniester Republic] where such investigations are impossible due to the secessionist policy of that region.

Forty percent of the polled persons expressed the opinion that Moldova is making progress, 46 percent believe that the country is heading in the wrong direction, and 14 percent did not answer the question. [passage omitted]

Seventy-four percent of the polled persons are acquainted—to some extent—with President Snegur's mentioned statement and 51 percent claimed to be quite familiar with it. Concerning the opportunity of that statement, 56 percent considered that the statement came at the right time and a mere 12 percent said that they could have done without it. [passage omitted]

Being asked about the causes that might have lead President Snegur to make that statement, 32 percent considered that the president probably hoped to improve the social, political, and economic situation in Moldova; 13 percent answered in a confused way, mentioning the political struggle between the parliamentary factions as the most probable cause. All other explanations, including the wish to peacefully settle the Dniester conflict and preservation of the sovereignty and integrity of Moldova have merely been favored by 2-3 percent of the polled persons. This means that the majority of the population favors other methods to solve those problems.

It is worth mentioning that 65 percent of the interviewed persons accept the idea of organizing a referendum on Moldova's future. [passage omitted]

Should such a referendum actually take place, 67 percent of the people would vote in favor of the independence of the Republic of Moldova; 76 percent of the polled persons considered that President Snegur would vote that way himself; both the supporters of Moldova's joining the CIS (18 percent) and those who back Moldova's reunification with Romania (8 percent) are a minority. Sixty-six percent of the polled persons considered that such a referendum could be organized throughout the whole country, which may be wishful thinking, rather than reality, if one considers the negative attitude of the Tiraspol and Gagauz leadership regarding the referendum.

The results of the poll demonstrate that the majority of the population merely considers such a referendum as a way to reassert their wish to live in an independent country. They consider that the main problems facing Moldovan society are of another nature: the election of a new parliament, elaboration of a new constitution, and speeding up of the economic reform.

Independence Seen as Leading to Integration With CIS

AU2101143893 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 15 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed article: "The Chisinau Weekly TARA: 'We Have Not Yet Managed To Escape From Under Moscow's Boot'"]

[Text] "We have not yet managed to escape for good from under Moscow's boot. Moscow is maintaining its Army [14th CIS Army] on our territory; it has involved us in a destructive war that caused us major human and material losses; it has occupied the Dniester region and Tighina; has robbed us of the industrialized rayons; it has ruined our economy; and as a consequence of all this, now we are in a deplorable situation," writes the weekly TARA [THE COUNTRY] published in Chisinau. "Being basically an agrarian country that lacks energy sources and raw materials needed by other economic branches, we can subsist as an independent state for only a limited amount of time. Sooner or later we will have to integrate with one of the neighboring countries [reference to Romania and CIS]. The fact that a second Romanian state cannot exist is an irrefutable truth, confirmed by the whole history of our nation. If some Bessarabians favor an independent republic, deliberately or not, they are actually pleading for our return into the Russian empire."

Political Unrest Undermines Dniester's Integrity

AU2101153593 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 16 Jan 93 p 6

[Svitlana Chala article: "A 'Quiet Coup' Is Possible in Tiraspol"]

[Text] **"A 'Quiet Coup' Is Possible in Tiraspol"—this is how the Dniester deputies characterized the situation that had taken shape on Christmas Eve and not only in the city, but in the whole region as well where the conflict between the deputies corps and high-standing officials is becoming increasingly vivid in the still united Dniester region.**

The initial spur that caused the confrontation was the question that remained unanswered and that the people who had left the trenches asked themselves: "What was the sense of the past war?" Post-war life has confirmed the simple truth: It is easier to stir people for the battle than to ensure them normal work and decent living conditions.

The first strikes at Tiraspol enterprises showed that those in power and the rest of the population are far from being united. Then there sounded accusatory speeches by M. Bergman, commandant of the Tiraspol garrison, speeches that soon filled up the local press and radio channels. The accusations that sounded had nothing jocular about them at all. For example, the commandant asserted that bribery is flourishing within the Tiraspol leadership. That is why combating corruption that, in the opinion of Russian officer Bergman, has prevailed throughout the Building of the Councils in Tiraspol is the main goal of his life.

That was how a big scandal started in the small region. It is quite clear that the accused party did not sit idle. Soon afterwards, on the recommendation of the Dniester Security Service, M. Bergman was pictured as an agent of three or four intelligence services at the same time. Nor did A. Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, miss an opportunity to enter into conflict with the Dniester authorities. Not only did the Russian general take the side of the garrison commander, but he became keen on making accusatory speeches. He did not conceal his goal: to clear the region of corrupt leaders.

It was decided at one of the deputies meetings that the documents on corruption that the general has in his possession must be transferred to the Tiraspol Procurator's Office. That was soon done. However, the Procurator's Office did not see in them any violations that may be subject to criminal investigation and, to avoid unnecessary scandal, proposed that the "dossier" be transferred to independent experts, in particular, from Ukraine. Such a decision did not satisfy the general, and he immediately called a news conference at which he informed the journalists about the proofs that he has to the effect that bribes are being given and taken at the top. I cannot judge the reliability of the evidence he quoted. It is a matter for professionals to decide. However, I can confirm that people in the city hold A. Lebed in high esteem "for his truth." In the given conflict, the fact that the city's big shots who are people's deputies clearly support the general in his struggle against the present authorities plays a major role in this dispute.

Thus, the deputies corps of the Dniester region were split into those who promote the "quiet coup" and those who oppose it. Time will show who wins.

The deputies showed unanimity at the session referred to at the beginning of the article only when they discussed the strategic line in the relations with Moldova. In response to the Chisinau proposal to create an independent Dniester territory with Dubossary as its center in which Tiraspol is offered the role of a municipal entity, the deputies declared quite clearly: We will only cooperate on the conditions of confederation. Such a position was also supported by the local authorities. The draft confederative treaty was sent by the deputies not only to the parliament of Moldova, but also to all heads of the CIS states, as well as to the United Nations and the CSCE. It is still difficult to tell how the recipients are going to react to this directive. It may also be assumed that the situation that has taken shape in Tiraspol will undermine the region from within without any special push from outside. Who will, under such conditions, get popular support: The leaders accused of corruption or General Lebed who, as the Dniester deputies themselves put it, is a commander of the army of an alien state?

Not only does the struggle for power that has reached its apogee in Tiraspol cast a shadow on the region, but a possible "quiet coup" in Tiraspol threatens to lead to a new disaster. This is all the more so since forces ready to push the region there are available on both sides of the Dniester.

A small detail: Following the last news conference given by A. Lebed, representatives of the Dniester leadership left for Moscow; it only remains to guess whether they will seek justice against the unwelcome general or just advice.

Tajikistan

Afghan Mercenaries Fight for Anti-Government Forces

LD2101135893 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] There are Afghan mercenaries in Tajikistan fighting on the side of the anti-government forces, according to a spokesman of the republic's Committee for National Security. Local courts have already started 30 actions on criminal charges against them, said the spokesman.

Earlier reports said there were at least two camps in Afghanistan training militants from among Tajik refugees. Afghanistan has about 50,000 refugees from Tajikistan. The chairman of Tajikistan's parliament Imamali Rakhmonov intends to discuss with Russian President Boris Yeltsin at their upcoming meeting in Moscow a plan of joint action to stabilize the situation in his republic.

Officials Give News Conference

OW2101221093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1918 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference on Thursday [21 January] in Moscow Abdumalik Abdullodzhonov declared that the Tajik leadership hopes that at the summit in Minsk the CIS countries will render a widescale economic support, including credits and food stuffs, and will strengthen the Tajik-Afghan border as the outer border of the Commonwealth.

In his exclusive interview with INTERFAX Abdullodzhonov said that the Tajik delegation will apparently propose a joint financing of the frontier forces "because the republic is unable to do it independently." The Prime Minister pointed out that according to the available information, there are about 10 camps in Afghanistan to train combatants who "are being recruited" from the members of the Islamic party of Tajikistan. The camps are located on the territory which is under control of the Islamic party of Afghanistan headed by Golboddin Hekmatyar but not the Kabul authorities.

In the near few days a group of experts will fly to Afghanistan to negotiate with the Afghan leadership this issue and the problem concerning the return of the Tajik refugees to their homeland. Now, as many sources report, there are about 50 thousand refugees on the Afghan territory. In Abdullodzhonov's words, the introduction of the CIS peacekeeping contingent to Tajikstan could assist in stabilization of the situation in this region.

Official on Afghan Training Sites

OW2101221593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1918 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference on Thursday [21 January] in Moscow Saydamir Zukhurov, the chairman of the Tajik national security committee, declared that at present the Tajik leadership has no information about the support of the armed Tajik opposition on the part of the Iranian and Afghan governments. At the same time he pointed out that "several leaders of the Islamic party of Tajikistan, against whom criminal charges were brought as they were accused of a forcible attempt to change the state system, are staying on the Afghan territory. With the support of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan headed by Golboddin Hekmatyar, they are training armed units which will be sent to Tajikistan. [no close quotation marks as received]

The head of the Tajik National Security Committee gave no information about whereabouts of the head of the Tajik Moslem clergy, Akbar Turajonzoda, who is accused of public appeals unleashing war and hatred.

Zukhurov reported that the governmental bodies confiscated more that 3 thousands of automatic weapons illegally kept and used and more than 30 units of armored vehicles. According to Zukhurov, the pro-governmental Popular Front of Tajikistan has already begun to arm its detachments. However, these detachments "consisting of the fighters who proved their adherence to the present govern[illegible]ent" should become the basis of the Tajik Army, Zukhurov believes.

Mojahedin Said Helping Opposition

LD2201133893 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The Afghan mojahedin are providing firearms and military equipment to the armed groups who are fighting the current legal Government of Tajikistan.

Not satisfied with providing such assistance, they are actively taking part in military operations in the southern regions of Tajikistan and alongside the anti-government forces are striving to overthrow the government of the republic. The information from the National Security Committee of Tajikistan is evidence to this fact.

The above-mentioned committee, in the meantime, has opened criminal proceedings against 30 Afghan mojahedin captured by the Russian border guards and the soldiers of the National Front of Tajikistan [Jabha-i Milli-i Tajikistan] in the border regions of the republic. All those captured will in coming days appear in court, according to Saidanwar Kamolov, head of the investigation department of the National Security Committee of the republic. They are mainly inhabitants of the northern provinces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan who crossed into the territory of Tajikistan in order to fight alongside the armed groups of the opposition forces and to establish an Islamic state in Tajikistan. The mojahedin, who have crossed into Tajikistan from across the Panj river, have confessed to this.

The National Security Committee of the republic has also recovered documents and five letters that were seized from those captured. For example, in a letter to a citizen of Tajikistan, one of the mojahedin commanders belonging

to the Amir Latif group has asked [passage indistinct] for the Tajik mojahedin, calling them for jiihad and the overthrow of the present set up. Accompanying the letter was a large quantity of firearms and ammunition sent to Tajikistan.

Call-Up for 'Active Service' in Armed Forces

PM2101141593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jan 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Karpov report: "Tajikistan Has Started Forming Its Own Armed Forces"]

[Text] Dushanbe—The republic has begun calling up citizens for active service in the ranks of the Armed Forces, Internal Troops, and Border Guard Troops stationed on Tajikistan's territory.

Last fall's call-up of youths was to all intents and purposes wrecked because of the tense sociopolitical situation. Now staffers at the recently created Ministry of Defense Organizational-Mobilization Directorate have set about fulfilling the Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium's 18 December 1992 edict on creating its own Armed Forces. They are being formed on the basis of the People's Front, the armed formations supporting the current government, and the call-up of young people.

Tajikistan has agreements with other CIS republics on sending its troops to serve elsewhere. However, new recruits in 1993 will boost units stationed on their home territory. These include Russia's 201st Motorized Infantry Division, border troops, and Air Force units. They also cover subunits of troops under the republic Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and State Committee for National Security.

Troops Support 'Clean Up' To Help Russian-Speaking Citizens

OW1501224093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1937 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Amir Zukhurov, Chairman of Tajikistan's National Security Committee, said that Russian troops had to support the Government forces in the clean up of Rogun east of Dushanbe from illegal militias because 7,500 Russian-speaking people lived there.

"Like it or not, defending his countrymen is the duty of every decent man", he said. Asked about the number of the Russian troops involved in the operation, he said that it was 50 to 60 at most, not a thousand as the rumors had it.

He confirmed that tanks and APCs [armored personnel carriers] had been on the scene "but not Russian helicopters reported by Western news agencies".

He denied that the Russian troops had had a leading role to play in the operation. "Their functions amounted to road blocking and convoy duties in delivery of humanitarian supplies to civilians in Obirgam and Rogun". He did not remember any other case of Russian military involvement in combat operations with Government forces.

Zukhurov added that because Russian speaking population was not that dense anywhere else in Tajikistan, Russian troops would not share in such operations.

He admitted that although Rogun was controlled by government troops, "there is no real quiet in the town". In his words, the opposition gunmen who are still at large have committed acts of terror there.

Opposition forces are said to entrench along the Komsomolabad road, 10 to 15 kilometers away.

Russian, Tajik Forces in Border Security Operations

PM1901133793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jan 93 p 1

[Valeriy Yakov report: "Number of Refugees Along the Panj River Declining"]

[Text] A special operation has been mounted in a sector of the Panj Border Detachment's area to remove unauthorized persons from the border zone. Certain problems involving refugees were also tackled at the same time. As of today no more than 2,000 people, as opposed to the 30,000 reported by television a few days ago, remain in that troubled locality.

The operation in the border zone was carried out by a special combat group of the Tajikistan National Security Commitee with the participation of a border troop subunit. According to staffers of the Russian Border Troops Press Bureau, the basic aim of the measure was to return residents of Afghanistan who had infiltrated Tajikistan to the adjoining territory. Around 300 Afghans were expelled during the operation, and at the same time refugees from Tajikistan, who are decreasing in number with every day, were driven back from the Panj River.

During the operation the special forces and border troops came under mortar fire from Afghanistan territory. Fortunately, no one was killed or wounded.

On the same day, in another sector of the Panj Detachment's area, border troops had to use their weapons on two occasions. In the first incident, six armed violators tried to escape into Afghanistan; in the second, around 20 armed men tried to penetrate the border from Afghanistan. In both incidents warning shots fired by the border troops prevented violation of the border.

Active efforts are now being made to restore the line of border protection installations. At the same time representatives of the Russian Border Troops have started talks with the Afghan side on tackling the question of ferrying Tajik refugees back across the Panj River from Afghanistan territory, which, given the absence of a bridge or watercraft in this sector, is not easy.

According to available information, around 15,000 refugees have expressed a desire to return home. Both the Russian and the Afghan sides agree that it is better if this is done in an organized way.

People's Front Leader Denies Ethnic Cleansing Charges

LD1801092893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0859 GMT 18 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe January 18 TASS—Chairman of Tajik People's Front, Sangak Safarov, described rumours spread by leaders of the opposition alleging that his supporters are making mass ethnic cleansing in Khatlon region in the south of Tajikistan as "foul insinuations and vicious lies".

He pointed out in an interview with the business and politics weekly that the Tajik People's Front had been fighting and continues to fight against Islamic fundamentalists and their associates which stained themselves with the blood of thousands of their compatriots who plunged the country into a fratricidal war.

Safarov said that the Tajik People's Front fully supports the constitutionally elected leadership of the republic and comes out for the integrity of the nation and its consolidation and calls upon all refugees who fled their homes in the days of the conflict to return to their homes and do their best to take the republic out of the political and economic crisis.

"All attempts at self-trial on ethnic grounds are resolutely cut short by the leadership of People's Front locally, up to shooting dead by a firing squad," Safarov said.

Safarov said his supporters demand severe punishment for all leaders of the armed opposition, field commanders, including religious leaders, and declared that adversaries of the nation would not escape people's vengeance and trial by history.

Deputy Parliament Head Discusses National Reconciliation

OW1501212293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "We are now trying to eliminate from our vocabulary such words as provincialism, since we all represent one state". This was said in and exclusive interview with an INTERFAX correspondent by the deputy head of the Tajik parliament Mammadsaid Ubaidullayev.

Answering the question on whether this thesis means representatives of the current opposition territories such as Garm can occupy places in the government, he gave some examples of representatives of this region in the present cabinet. According to him one of the vice-premiers, the minister of ecology and also the minister of labor and employment are all from Garm.

Ubaidullayev thinks the most important evidence of the efforts of the leadership of the republic toward national reconciliation is the absence, in the government, of the intention to prevent granting humanitarian aid to districts where there are still "Islamic soldiers".

Concerning the problem of Tajik refugees who have already crossed or are preparing to cross the border with Afghanistan, the deputy parliamentary chairman recalled that a delegation created by the government must soon fly to neighboring Afghanistan for negotiations with the leadership of that country and directly with the refugees. He noted that the team of the Committee on National Security and the Peoples Front led by Sangak Safarov is conducting a "big explanatory and work" with those "who are awaiting passage to Afghanistan". According to Ubaidullayev they "are not only being assured of the security of those people returning to their homes and families but also practically helping them to return by providing transport". According to his estimates about 150,000 persons have already returned from the border region. "Those who are returning without arms", he assured "we accept as agreed and forget old grievances but to carry weapons into our territory is not allowed."

Answering a question on the fate of the head of Tajik Moslems, Kazi Kolon Haji Akbar Turajonzoda, the deputy leader of the Supreme Soviet noted that Turajonzoda is no longer the spiritual head of the Moslems of Tajikistan, if only because there is a criminal charge on him. Besides, the Tajik government strongly intends to follow the example of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan to separate from the spiritual control of Moslems of Central Asia, as settled in Tashkent and create its own independent state.

Turkmenistan

Deputy Prime Minister Rejects Draft CIS Charter

OW2101200293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1917 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his interview with INTERFAX Boris Shikhmuradov, the republic's Vice Premier, declared that Turkmenistan will not sign the CIS Charter. In Shikhmuradov's words, the leadership of Ashgabat "does not perceive the draft of the Charter conceptually." "We oppose rigid structures and deny the idea of creation of any center. The life demonstrates that any issue within the so called single space can be solved on the basis of bilateral relations. Direct contacts do work and they do not work in the CIS," Shikhmuradov said.

"We welcome flexible approach with respect to the draft of the Charter and believe that the Charter is not necessary—there are already basic documents about the creation of the

CIS which have been signed. It is necessary to develop horizontally that fragile sovereignty which we have now," Shikhmuradov believes.

Armenia

Fighting Continues in Nagorno-Karabakh, Yerevan

Stepanakert Shelled

NC1901164493 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] The battles were continuing near Kichan and Aradzhadzor in Mardakertskiy Rayon last night and this morning. KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY cites the self-defense forces headquarters as reporting that the Armenian self-defense forces are successfully halting the enemy's offensive.

Stepanakert came under shelling at 0600 today from long-range artillery located in Azerbaijan's Agdamskiy Rayon. The shelling caused fresh destruction in the city. According to preliminary reports, some of the residents were injured. The Armenian self- defense forces opened measured retaliatory fire on the enemy's positions, forcing it to cease the shelling.

The Azerbaijani side used artillery and tanks this morning to shell Khanabad and Karaglukh in Askeranskiy Rayon. The exchange of fire continues. Details about the fighting are being determined.

Gevorgavan in Martuninskiy Rayon came under shelling on the night of 18 January. The local self-defense forces inflicted a fitting response on the enemy's firing positions.

Relative calm prevailed in Gadrutskiy Rayon on the night of 18-19 January.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's [NKR] self-defense forces are fully and reliably controlling the situation along the Lachin humanitarian corridor.

KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY also reports that the massing of Azerbaijani troops and military hardware is being observed to the south of the Lachin humanitarian corridor. This is not a mere coincidence, given the fact that Mario Rafaelli, chairman of CSCE's Minsk conference on the Karabakh problem, is expected to visit the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone towards the end of January. As you already know, on the eve of any official visit for mediation purposes the Azerbaijani side sharply escalates the military operations. These facts prove that Azerbaijan aims to disrupt any peace mission to Karabakh in an effort to relegate the Karabakh conflict into oblivion, said Gegam Bagdasaryan, secretary of the NKR Supreme Soviet press service. In a statement disseminated through SNARK, Bagdasaryan stressed: In view of the facts enumerated above, we believe that this time, during his tour of Transcaucasia, Mario Rafaelli also should visit Stepanakert, which is a state capital being defended against the aggression of the Azerbaijani republic.

Explosion at Yerevan Airport

NC1901163193 Yerevan SNARK in English 1314 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan, January 19 (SNARK)—SNARK agency has learned from reliable sources the power supply substation of the Yerevan Airport "Zvartnots" exploded and got fired this night. As a result, the last transport way connecting Armenia with outer world was broken off.

Repairing works to restore supplying the air "gates" of the Republic with power are being carried out. A fire was put out in the morning and power supply of the runways and surface services has been resumed, except the airport building which still remains without energy. SNARK agency informed earlier about the Armenian aviators' strike, scheduled for January 20, protesting against their former leaders' arrest. No connection between today's explosion and tomorrow's strike has been fixed yet.

Three Azerbaijani Planes Hit

NC1901170693 Yerevan SNARK in English 1434 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Stepanakert, January 19 (SNARK)—Today 3 warplanes of the Azerbaijani Air Forces have been fired in Stepanakert. Pilots' fate is unknown. So, the Azerbaijani Air Forces have lost 7 warplanes in Karabakh from the beginning of the year.

According to the reports SNARK news agency received by 6 P.M. from the official sources of Stepanakert, the Karabakh forces of self-defense had repelled hard attacks of the Azerbaijani units to Aradzhadzor village at the south of Mardakertskiy Rayon. Then the Karabakh forces of self-defense made the counterattack setting free Kichan village captured by Azeris. The Azerbaijani side lost about 100 soldiers.

Attack on Lachin Corridor

NC2001140393 Yerevan SNARK in English 0932 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Stepanakert, January 20 (SNARK)—This morning the Azerbaijani Army has launched a large-scale attack against the Lachin "humanitarian corridor." The operation aims to isolate Karabakh from the outer world by capturing the "way of life," connecting Karabakh with Armenia. A great number of military forces, tanks and other armoured cars are in use. Karabakh self-defence forces try to repel the enemy's offensive. The fighting at present is still going on in the south of Lachin. Consequences are not yet obvious. In Azerbaijani Askeranskiy Rayon, which borders Karabakh, a great quantity of military equipment is concentrated, SNARK's reporter has learned from the reliable sources. The enemy may any minute undertake a concentrated blow against the Askeranskiy Rayon of Karabakh.

It is relatively quiet all along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border for the present. A firing was fixed at the northern-east of Armenia this night. The Armenian village of

Vazashen in Idzhevanskiy Rayon has been fired this night from the territory of Kazakhskiy Rayon of Azerbaijan, SNARK's reporter informs according to the data got from the Armenian Defence Ministry. No victims, fortunately, this time. As it was learned from reliable sources, the civil population of Kazakhskiy had been temporarily evacuated.

Fall of Villages Denied

NC2001204293 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY cites Karabakh self-defense forces headquarters as reporting that the offensive launched yesterday by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces against Kichan and Sirkhavend in Mardakertskiy Rayon has failed. Contrary to the claims by Baku, Kichan, Sirkhavend and nearby areas are under full Armenian control.

Nine Azerbaijani Air Force planes bombed the suburbs of Stepanakert and Shusha last night. The air-defense fighters of the Armenian self-defense forces shot down three of the enemy's planes.

The Azerbaijani warplanes again violated the airspace of Nagorno- Karabakh Republic [NKR] this morning. However, they mistakenly bombed their own positions near the village of Karaglukh.

The self-defense forces headquarters also reports that since this morning the enemy has been launching a tank attack against the Lachin corridor, which links Armenia to the NKR, from Azerbaijan's Kubatlinskiy Rayon. Armenian forces are resisting the enemy's large-scale attack.

The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service just informed us that the situation was calm in Armenia's border regions as of 1700 today.

'Wide-Scale' Azerbaijani Offensive

OW2101083093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0008 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Well-informed sources in Yerevan reported to INTERFAX that, on the morning on January 20, Azeri formations, supported by armored vehicles, began a wide-scale offensive against Armenian positions in the zone of the Lachin humanitarian corridor. Armenian forces are repulsing the attacks.

The same day, Stepanakert, the administrative center of Nagorno- Karabakh, was again subjected to shelling. There were no casualties. According to more precise information, as a result of Tuesday's [19 January] shelling, one man was wounded.

According to Yerevan, on January 19, Azeri forces were moved from the villages of Kichan and Syrkhavend, in the Mardakert region. In addition, Armenian forces brought down three out of nine Armenian aircraft which were bombing the suburbs of the cities of Khodzhaly and Shusha. The same sources report that, on Wednesday morning, aircraft of the Azeri Air Force erroneously blanketed their own positions in the Askeran region, with fire.

Meanwhile, the Azeri Defense Ministry denies rumors about three aircraft which were allegedly brought down on Tuesday. In his interview with INTERFAX, a representative of the Defense Ministry declared that, on January 19, Azeri aircraft did not fly any combat missions.

On Wednesday, Baku reported "the liberation" of several populated centers in the north of Karabakh and Stepanakert. The Azeri sources assert that, within the previous 24 hours, they hit an Armenian tank, two APCs [armored personnel carriers], one heavy artillery gun and seized an ammunition depot.

During combat in the Agdam region, the Azeri Defense Ministry reports, National Army detachments occupied 11 strategic heights. There were casualties as a result of shelling of Agdam, the regional center, by the Armenian forces.

Azerbaijanis 'Pushed Back' at Lachin

NC2101123393 Yerevan SNARK in English 0842 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Stepanakert, January 21 (SNARK)—The Karabakh self-defence forces have pushed back the Azerbaijani troops' attack against the humanitarian corridor January 20. According to the Self-Defence State Committee, the enemy has losses. The Armenian platoons destroyed a Grad launcher.

Armenia-Lachin-Karabakh road is functioning uninterruptedly. On the other hand the Azerbaijani Army has failed Northern Karabakh, had not captured the strategic Kishan settlement in the south of Mardakertskiy Rayon. As a result of the yesterday Azerbaijani air forces bombardment 5 killed and 20 more injured among the civilian population in the Vank settlement northern Karabakh.

Update on 20 Jan Fighting

NC2101214493 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

Azerbaijan continues to maintain its acts of genocide against the people of Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh], who are fighting for their freedom. It confirmed this situation once again on 20 January. Azerbaijan's military units fired on NKR's cities and towns from various positions. Stepanakert, NKR's capital, was subjected to a rocket attack on the same day. Meanwhile, nine artillery shells fell on Stepanakert at 0800. They were fired from Agdamskiy Rayon. Several buildings were destroyed.

The situation on the NKR's battlefronts worsened once again yesterday afternoon. Azerbaijani military aircraft

fired rockets at the Armenian self-defense positions in Askeranskiy and Mardakertskiy Rayons at 1100. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's military units attacked Arachadzov and Kichan. The NKR self-defense forces rebuffed the attacks and counterattacked the enemy. They forced the Azerbaijani units to retreat.

Azerbaijani units have intensified their activities against Martuninskiy Rayon as well. The Armenian defensive positions in that rayon have been fired on from Agdamskiy and Fizulinskiy Rayons. [passage indistinct]

The situation in the border region between Armenia and Azerbaijan is rather tense. The Azerbaijani aggressors have not abandoned their provocative activities. They have attacked [words indistinct] and fired on several areas in Armenia with various types of arms. Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has continued to distort the facts and blame the Armenian side.

Kornidzor in Gorisskiy Rayon was fired on from Azerbaijan's Kubatlinskiy Rayon yesterday. Azerbaijan's military units also attacked the Armenian defensive positions. The Armenian forces successfully rebuffed the enemy attack. Reports we have received say the enemy currently is massing military units and armored vehicles in areas close to Kornidzor and Khndzoresk.

Vartashen was fired on yesterday from Azerbaijan's Kazakhskiy Rayon. No one was hurt on the Armenian side.

There were no significant incidents in the other border rayons in Armenia.

Foreign Ministry Protests Airspace Violation

NC2101213493 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY cites Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] self-defense forces headquarters as reporting that Azerbaijani Air Force warplanes violated the NKR's airspace on 20 January and raided settlements in Mardakertskiy and Askeranskiy Rayons. During the bombing of Vank and Aradzhadzor in Mardakertskiy Rayon, two bombs fell on Aradzhadzor Hospital. Five people were killed and 12 others injured.

NKR air defense forces shot down a MiG-21 aircraft.

Positional battles resumed on the Sirkhavend-Kichan-Chldran battlefront in Mardakertskiy Rayon at 1800.

The enemy formations also launched a major tank attack against the NKR self-defense forces' positions in the southern sector of the Lachin humanitarian corridor [yesterday] afternoon. The enemy also shelled the positions with Grad rockets. The enemy's attack was repulsed by the early morning of 21 January. One Grad launcher was captured. One Armenian was killed and three injured.

As we already reported, Azerbaijan again violated Armenia's airspace. The Armenian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement on the incident. The statement is being read out by Nelli Matevosyan, head of the Foreign Ministry press service:

[Begin Matevosyan recording] An Azerbaijani Air Force warplane flying from Azerbaijan violated Armenian airspace at around 1700 on 20 January. Following measures taken by the Armenian defense forces, the aircraft was shot down over Vardenisskiy Rayon. The site of the crash and the fate of the pilot are being determined.

This incident is only one in a series of active military operations that have been conducted by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces in Nagorno-Karabakh and in Armenia's border regions since the second half of January.

It is sufficient to state that seven aircraft bombing peaceful settlements have been shot down in just the past few days over Nagorno-Karabakh. It also is obvious that this is a provocation aimed at dragging Armenia into a large-scale war.

Armenia often has put forth peaceful measures and proposals particularly aimed at preventing the use of large-caliber weapons and air forces in the armed conflict. But having suffered substantial casualties among the peaceful residents and having lost considerable numbers of aircraft, military hardware, and troops, the Azerbaijani side is attempting to achieve a military advantage at all costs before sitting down at the negotiating table.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry is authorized to state that this policy is short-sighted and without prospects. The Armenian Republic is in a position to and will resolutely prevent any attempt directed against its territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders. [end recording]

President Praises Visit, Talks With Kazakhstan

NC2001191793 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] The Armenian delegation's short working visit to Kazakhstan has concluded. The Armenian president's plane landed at Yerevan's Zvartnots airport late last night. The Armenian delegation to Alma-Ata was headed by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and included Prime Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan, heads of a number of ministries and departments, and other officials. The delegation was welcomed at the airport by members of the government and press.

Despite the late hour, cold blizzard, and minus 20-degree centigrade weather, Ter-Petrosyan briefed reporters on the results of the visit.

He said that the results of the visit are satisfactory because all the goals were realized in full. A document on interstate relations was signed at the presidential level. This is the third agreement of its kind in the CIS framework following Lithuania's agreement with Russia. With this, relations between Armenia and Kazakhstan will be along the lines of international relations. A government-level agreement was

signed on economic cooperation for 1993, and a separate agreement was signed regulating bilateral financial relations.

The president noted that practical results were achieved during the talks. Serious agreements were concluded on economic cooperation and exchange of goods. An Armenian mission was opened in Alma-Ata.

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Reports Villages 'Liberated' in Karabakh

NC1901162693 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1303 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 19 Jan (ASSA-IRADA)—The villages of Sirkhavend and Kichan in the north of upper Karabakh were liberated from Armenian invaders by Azerbaijan Army. The Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan said that this night advanced detachments of Azerbaijani infantry entered Armenian military camp in the village of Arachadzov and continue their advance in the planned direction.

Armed forces of Armenia lost 3 tanks and one lorry in the battles during yesterday. Two battle cars of infantry, two pieces of ordnance, a motorcar and a depot were seized as trophy. In order to make up a deficiency, Armenian troops try to transfer battle equipment to Karabakh along so-called Lachin corridor. The Azerbaijani artillery prevented this last action of the enemy having destroyed three autocars of enemy. Today since 10 o'clock in the morning the town of Agdam is being centered fire on from the villages of Kulablinsky and Khanabad. Two residents were killed, there are ravages, the correspondent of ASSA-IRADA informed from Agdam.

Plane Attacks Nagorno-Karabakh Hospital

LD2101132893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent Boris Kyufaryan for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan January 21 TASS—Five people were killed and thirteen wounded when an Azeri combat plane bombed the hospital in the village of Arachadzor in Mardakert region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The plane was later shot down, the self-defence headquarters in Stepanakert reported on Thursday [21 January].

After heavy fighting Azeri forces had to retreat from the Lachin corridor connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia. Casualties were reported on both sides. Azeris lost one "Grad" rocket launcher.

It was relatively quiet in border areas between Armenia and Azerbaijan on Thursday, according to the Armenian Defence Ministry.

'Violent' Fighting Reported in North, South Karabakh

NC2101194993 Baku TURAN in English 1330 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 21 Jan (TURAN)—Violent combats reported along the river of Khachinchay on the north of Karabakh are going on. Press-centre of the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry reports that Azerbaijani sub-units, having captured a number of strategic positions, are developing the attack. At present, the battles are going on near the villages of Dovshanli and Vankly.

In the direction of Fizulinskiy, Armenian sub-units keep fighting for the heights, which would help them to subject the town of Fizuli and also the main road Baku-Fizuli to persistent shelling. The next Armenian attack on the height of Gizil-Gaya, assumed early in the morning today, has failed. At the same time, Armenian sub-units subjected the town of Fizuli to massive shelling by "Grad" installations and tank's guns. There are reports on wounded and destructions in the town.

On the south of the region of Lachin, heavy combats for the height of Suzul-Dag are under way. The height itself has changed hands for several times already. 25 Armenian soldiers lost their lives at the battle-field there.

Russia, Armenia Accused of Preparing for Spring Offensive

OW2101122093 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Unidentified reporter video report; from the "Telefaks" newscast]

[Text] Today, we can speak with a high degree of certainty of the hurried Armenian preparations for a spring military campaign on the Karabakh front and all along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

Yet again we witness how coordinated the foreign policy and military departments of our neighboring state are in organizing future combat missions. It would be a great mistake to think that only economic issues were discussed during the recent meeting of Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Russian President Yeltsin. However, this issue too is of significance to Armenia, engaged as it is in preparing the material and technical foundation of its military forces for the upcoming intensification of military activity.

The Armenian leadership has probably tried to enlist the support of Russia, thus creating some kind of passive military and political alliance with its northern neighbor. In this connection, it would have been interesting to get an answer to the following question: Is it incidental that three such important events—the above- mentioned summit in Moscow, the approach of summer with the resulting opening of communications in the Karabakh mountains, and the growing curtailment of trade between Azerbaijan and Russia—coincide chronologically?

The diplomatic activity of Yerevan officials also fits the picture of military preparations. It is a text-book strategy: a state harboring aggressive designs takes appropriate steps to predispose world opinion just prior to a major military operation, just like a thief who expresses his outrage over a theft, louder than anyone else.

An analysis of military actions in the conflict zone itself, such as the intensification of military duels and the fact that attempts to attack Azerbaijani positions occur all along the front line, leads to the conclusion that an active probing action by the Armenian military command is in progress, and that it aims to intensify military action during the spring offensive.

Russian Troop Withdrawal Impeded by Blockades

LD2101175693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1007 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—The administration for the protection of the Azerbaijani state border is going ahead with the withdrawal from the republic of the Prishib and Lenkorani border detachments consisting of Russian military servicemen. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this today at the Russian border troops press center. At the same time, the Azerbaijani side has prohibited flights of Russian aircraft and is not observing the quotas for the division of property, equipment, and armaments.

According to the Russian Federation border troops press service, a particularly alarming situation is developing around the Lenkorani border detachment. Subunits of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry are blocking the approaches to garrisons and the homes of officers in the town of Lenkorani and other places where Russian border troops are in residence. The servicemen have been banned from taking out of the border detachment area any articles or objects, including personal belongings. The command of the Transcaucasian Border District is taking measures to resolve contentious issues.

President Sets Up Committee on Missing People, Hostages

LD2001165793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] The increase in the number of cases of missing Azerbajani citizens, as well as of hostages taken during the war with Armenia, has compelled President Elchibey to set up a state committee for people taken prisoner and hostages. It is composed of prominent lawyers, diplomats, and representatives of international public organizations.

No firing and combat actions were recorded last night or this morning on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. This was reported by the LUR agency. However, in a number of Azerbaijani regions bordering on Armenia, the accumulation of manpower and equipment continues as before.

Nakhichevan Leader Congratulates Clinton, Appeals for Aid

NC2101195993 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] Supreme Assembly, has conveyed a congratulatory telegram and a letter to Bill Clinton on the eve of the day he assumes his duties as the new U.S. President.

The telegram says: I wish to inform you that I hope that you will use the opportunities at your disposal to help successfully resolve the problems which are linked with armed disputes in various parts of the world and which concern the future of millions of people. I also hope that you will [words indistinct] toward Azerbaijan, which is an independent republic, and the NAR, which is part of Azerbaijan.

Aliyev appealed to Bill Clinton in his letter to move to provide humanitarian aid to the NAR, which has been blockaded by Armenia for more than eight months. Aliyev said that the NAR has had great difficulty in providing the needed materials—including provisions, electricity, and fuel—to its people. He noted: I believe that Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey, who is trying to resolve the NAR's social and economic problems, will appreciate your efforts. Mr. President, I am convinced that your help at this difficult time for the NAR will serve as convincing confirmation of the auspicious and careful U.S. approach toward our region. It will be appreciated.

Prime Minister Hopeful for Economic Improvement

OW2101222793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Prime Minister Rakhim Guseynov has expressed his hope in an interview with INTERFAX that Azerbaijan's economy will improve all round during the current year. He said that the degree of stabilisation already evident must be maintained during the first half of the year, and that afterwards the second half of the year would see economic growth in comparison with last year.

The prime minister considered that the government, for its part, should concentrate most on manufacturing as regards both prices and raising the quality of products intended for the home market. If products could be sold on the home market, he said, this would stabilise currency circulation and have a positive influence on economic indicators. Guseynov also said that the government would direct renewed efforts to the processing industries which would be recieving capital investment.

Regarding the long-term development of strategic sectors, Guseynov stressed that 550-600,000 tons of cotton would

be harvested this year and 11-11.5 mn. [million] tons of oil would be produced. He said that oil production would increase by 250,000 tons compared with last year's indicators. The head of government also said that if joint plans with western companies for oil production were successfully put into effect, then in five years' time annual production would be 16-17 mn. tons, and in ten years 22-25 mn. tons.

Guseynov said that agricultural development for last year had been unsatisfactory.

Decree Issued To Regulate Payment of Russian, Other Debts

LD1501182893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1416 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By AZERTAC-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku January 15 TASS—In light of Azerbaijan's switchover to inter-state settlements with republics of the former union through correspondents accounts, the Azeri president has issued a decree on the regulation of all financial settlements in the republic. According to this document, Azeri enterprises and organisations are given 60 days to secure the repayment of debts owed to them by consumers outside Azerbaijan. No goods will henceforth be allowed to leave the republic if they are not paid for in advance.

AZERTAC has learned at the National Bank of the republic that the debt of Russian enterprises and organisations to Azerbaijan had accrued to almost 16 billion roubles by January 1st. Azeri enterprises proved unprepared to carry out direct settlements with their partners abroad without the help of the National Bank. As a result of this, the republic which last year repaid all its debts to foreign suppliers, landed in an acute payments crisis. The new presidential decree is intended to rectify the situation.

Delegation Departs for Germany for Business, Official Talks

NC1901074493 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] A government delegation headed by State Secretary Panakh Guseynov left Azerbaijan for Germany on 14 January. First Deputy Prime Minister Abbas Abbasov and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Rauf Karayev are among the members of the delegation. The main objective of the unofficial visit is to establish relations with German businessmen. This information has been conveyed to a KHABAR Service NEWS AGENCY correspondent by Elmar Mamedov, deputy head of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations Protocol Department.

The Azerbaijan Council of Ministers Press Service has informed the same news agency that the delegation will hold talks with government officials and business circles in Germany on the conditions of humanitarian aid and loans to Azerbaijan. An agreement will also be signed for the purchase of provisions and consumer goods from that country.

Agreement Reached With Iran on Delivery of Fuel, Flour

NC2101131393 Yerevan SNARK in English 0842 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, January 21 (SNARK)—Azerbaijani Parliament Vice-Speaker A. Dzhalilov reports, according the agreement achieved between Iran and Azerbaijan, Iran will deliver to Nakhichevan 50 tank-car of mazot [fuel oil], 40 tank-cars of diesel fuel, and between 100 to 120 tons of flour per week.

Azerbaijan National Unity Party Registers

NC1801133993 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The republic's Justice Ministry has registered the Azerbaijan National Unity Party [Azerbaycan Milli Birlik Partiyasi]. Nazim Aliyev, head of the Justice Ministry [words indistinct] Department, informed an AZERTAC correspondent that the Azerbaijan National Unity Party was the 19th political party to register officially. The new party's main objective is to contribute toward the effort made to establish a united and independent state, to obstruct forces that try to fragment the people in favor of the old ideas, and to safeguard and strengthen national unity.

Georgia

Representatives Not To Attend Minsk Summit

OW2101200193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1917 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian representatives will not now attend the Minsk summit of Commonwealth Heads of State on January 22 even in the capacity of observers. INTERFAX received this statement from Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua.

Shevardnadze Calls For Peacekeeping Forces for Iraq

LD2201133593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1213 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By GEORGIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi January 22 TASS—"The need to enhance the role of the United Nations in the settlement of regional and local conflicts comes to the forefront in conditions when the emergence of new political structures in the world increases their number," head of the Georgian State Eduard Shevardnadze told the Georgian news service. He

stressed the need to create effective mechanisms for the implementation of the Security Council's decisions.

"The dispatch of peace-keeping forces to the demilitarised zone of Iraq should be considered precisely in this context," Shevardnadze stated. "This decision, and primarily its implementation, should set the example for settling regional and local conflicts by the world community," he added.

Speaking about Georgia's stand, Shevardnadze stressed his country's interest in the peaceful settlement of armed conflicts, because it is "among the countries that have felt the sting of separatism and have suffered from attempts to dismember them." He expressed the hope that the "settlement of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict will set off the process of preventing attempts to recarve the borders that were fixed in the course of ages, to encroach upon the territorial integrity of states, including Georgia."

Negotiations With Russia To Begin 22 Jan in Tbilisi

OW2101201193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1917 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The 3rd round of the Georgian-Russian negotiations is due to begin on Friday, January 22, in Tbilisi. The delegations are to prepare a number of documents for signing. They include a treaty on friendship and cooperation, a treaty on the legal status and the terms of staying of the armed formations on the Georgian territory, an agreement on the status and functioning of the Russian frontier forces temporary staying on the Georgian territory.

An INTERFAX correspondent reports from Tbilisi, that on the eve of the negotiations representatives of several opposition political parties of the republic had a meeting in the Georgian capital. The party of national independence, the national-democratic party, the society of Merab Kostava, and the popular front attended the meeting. The orators stressed that a number of provisions contained in the drafts of the Georgian-Russian documents do not meet Georgia's interests.

Delegation Arrives

LD2201131193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1248 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi January 22 TASS—A Russian official delegation led by Ambassador at Large Felix Kovalev arrived in Tbilisi on Friday to attend the third round of talks with Georgia.

The parties will discuss a basis of inter-state relations between the two states and a treaty of friendship and cooperation, as well as a large package of agreements, including on the status and terms of stay of Russian troops in Georgia.

On Friday, the Russian delegation will hold discussions with the Georgian delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Ukleb. The talks will begin on Saturday.

A group of Russian military experts are expected to arrive in Tbilisi in five days to discuss, jointly with their Georgian colleagues, military aspects of the proposed agreements.

Russian Servicemen Ask Shevardnadze To Prevent Attacks

OW1901184693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Personnel of the Group of Russian Forces in Transcaucasia (GRFT) called on the Georgian leader, Eduard Shevardnadze, to undertake all possible measures to stop "criminal activity" against Russian servicemen stationed in the republic.

The address of the GRFT press center to Shevardnadze reports of "barber attacks" of armed formations against units, offices, and depots of the Russian Group of Forces organized in the course of the last few days, where the attackers captured weapons and a large quantity of military and technical equipment. The attackers managed to capture three oil tank cars, an armored vehicle, a Kamaz truck with food products, and food stuffs from a food storage facility. A clothing base was robbed. Major General Leonid Baranov, the rearward commander of the GRFT, who arrived at the clothing base, was detained for two hours.

The press center stresses the unwillingness of Russian servicemen to quarrel with the people of Georgia as "definite destructive forces" in the republic strive to. The statement contains a request to determine the conditions and the terms of the Russian forces' staying in Georgia with the Russian government "by civilized political methods."

Russian Humanitarian Flights to Tkvarcheli Approved

LD2201133393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1237 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Sochi January 22 TASS—Georgia granted a permission for Russian helicopters to deliver humanitarian aid to the mountaneous town of Tkvarcheli cut off in Abkhazia and guaranteed the safety of the flights over the Georgian-controlled territory, according to a copy of the note of the Georgian Foreign Ministry received on Thursday [21 January] by representatives of the Russian State Emergency Committee organising the humanitarian flights in Sochi.

The Georgian Government, however, demanded to coordinate the time and the route of the flights with Tomaz Nadareishvili, chairman of the pro-Georgian Government of Abkhazia.

Besides, the helicopters must land in Sukhumi on their way to Tkvarcheli and back for a check up of the passengers and cargoes. The Georgian military aviation will cover the flights.

30 people have already died of hunger in Tkvarcheli, according to witnesses. Some 15,000 need to be evacuated.

Tblisi Urges Russian Troop Withdrawal From South Ossetia

OW2201120593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1113 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian army commanders believe that the withdrawal of Russian peace-keeping forces from the Tskhinval area would help to normalize the situation in the region. The Georgian defense department's press service has reported to IF [INTERFAX] that there has been no official information so far from Russia's defense ministry on a possible Russian troop withdrawal from South Ossetia.

Moscow is exploring the possibility of removing the Russian peace-keeping force from South Ossetia, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official confirmed on Thursday. He said he did not have official information on whether the Russian leaders had taken any decision on the issue.

He did not comment on the reasons for the Russian peace-keeping forces' possible withdrawal from South Ossetia, and addressed this question to the Russian Defense Ministry.

However, the Defense Ministry flatly refused to comment on these reports.

Kitovani on Difficulty of Solving Abkhaz Conflict

LD1601140293 Moscos ITAR-TASS in English 1352 GMT 16 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Oleg Polovko]

[Text] Moscow January 16 TASS—It will be very difficult to solve the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict without Russian participation, Georgian Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani told ITAR-TASS over the telephone today.

He believes Russian participation in the conflict settlement must be limited to only political measures. In Kitovani's words, Georgia continues to insist on the withdrawal of Russian troops from the conflict zone.

At the same time, in his opinion, Russian servicemen together with Georgian ones could participate in the unblocking of roads and communications and restoration of life-sustenance systems broken by combat operations.

Positively estimating results of his recent Moscow visit, the defence minister expressed the assurance Georgia and Russia will achieve mutual understanding. There are long-term historical relations between the two countries, which cannot be broken, he said.

Kitovani categorically rejected any possibility of military coup and change of the Georgian leadership, describing such rumors as a provocation of the opposition.

Pilots, Passengers of Downed Helicopter Alive in Sukhumi

OW2001124293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1217 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The pilots and passengers from the MI-8 transport helicopter, which was delivering humanitarian aid from Karacheyevo-Cherkessiya to the Abkhazian town of Tkvarcheli and made a forced landing January 18 high in the mountains in Georgian controlled territory, are alive and currently in Sukhumi. INTERFAX received this announcement from the Georgian Defence Ministry's press bureau. The five passengers included Zurab Labakhua, the deputy chairman of the Abkhazian government in Gudauta, Raul Lasuriya, the head of administration in Tkvarcheli, and three Abkhazian journalists.

Another Russian helicopter appeared in the region Tuesday, according to information from Tbilisi. Georgian units forced the helicopter to land at Sukhumi Airport.

Unconfirmed information received by INTERFAX in Tbilisi said that the second helicopter, after making its landing in Georgian controlled territory, had been completely repaired. The landing was brought about due to the desire of Z. Labakhua, who is the most loyal member of the Abkhazian government to the Georgian authorities, to make contact with these authorities in order to hold talks. Labakhua worked alongside Eduard Shevardnadze when the latter was First Secretary of the Georgian Communist Party's Central Committee.

Gudauta claims that the second helicopter also made a forced landing due to damage caused by shelling from the land.

Officials Deny Downing Helicopter

LD2001190193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1824 GMT 20 Jan 93

[By GEORGIAN INFORMATION AGENCY for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi January 20 TASS—Chief of Staff of Georgian Armed Forces and First Deputy Defence Minister, Mukhtar Elbakidze, refuted a statement by the Presidium of the Abkhazian Parliament on the causes of the forced landing of Mi-28 helicopter belonging to Adler Aviation Enterprise on the Abkhazian territory controlled by Georgian troops.

According to the report, the helicopter with Deputy Chairman of the Abkhazian Government of the City of Gudauta, Zurab Labakhua, head of the administration of the town of Tkvarcheli, Raul Lasuria, and three Abkhazian journalists on board has been allegedly hit by a thermal missile launched from the ground by Georgian military.

Elbakidze officially declared that there has been no shelling of the helicopter with Abkhazian officials and journalists on board. "According to information at our disposal the helicopter had to land for technical reasons. The helicopter's crew and passengers were taken to Sukhumi. The next day after the helicopter landed another Russian Mi-8 helicopter appeared in the area of the helicopter's landing and our armed forces took measures to make it land in Sukhumi, which was quite justified since we were not informed about tasks performed by the second helicopter in the zone of combat operations and it was not examined in the Sukhumi airport. Neither the crew, nor the helicopter were damaged during the incident," he said.

On the permission of a military commandant of Sukhumi, an ITAR-TASS correspondent met on Wednesday with Deputy Chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers, Zurab Labakhua, who was among the passengers of the Russian Mi-8 helicopter which was intercepted and brought to Sukhumi on Tuesday.

Labakhua said that "evidence on which he was detained was not convincing and that he decided to refrain from taking any food." On Wednesday, Labakhua was examined by doctors at his request who said that his condition was normal.

Colonel Merab Gamzardia, commandant of Sukhumi, said that all passengers and members of the crew, except Labakhua, gave evidence to officials of the Abkhazian Prosecutor's Office, who began an investigation. He pointed out that the passengers and the crew of the helicopter had been detained for the movement in a transport vehicle on the Georgian territory without the consent of Georgian authorities. He added that Labakhua had refused to give evidence.

According to reports available, on Thursday Labakhua will be sent to Tbilisi where he had worked for over ten years in important posts (incidentally, at the end of the 1980s he was deputy chairman of the Georgian Council of Ministers). Labakhua is likely to be released without any conditions, the report said.

On Wednesday, the commandant of Sukhumi reported that journalist Vladimir Persiyanov from Kharkov, who was also on board the helicopter, will be released on humanity grounds and proceeding from the principles of the freedom of the press. Persiyanov told TASS that both members of the crew and himself were civilly treated by Georgian servicemen.

Persiyanov was released at 17:00 on Wednesday. He intends to stay in Sukhumi for a few days to collect photographs.

Passengers' Release Demanded

OW2101083193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0007 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidium of the Abkhazian parliament demands that the Georgian authorities in Sukhumi immediately set free the passengers and crew of the Russian Mi-8 transport helicopter which had to perform an emergency landing on Monday [18 January] on the territory controlled by Georgian armed formations 40 km off the town of Tkvarcheli.

The helicopter, which was bound for Georgian-beleaguered Tkvarcheli, was carrying flour. Its five passengers included Zurab Labakhua, deputy chairman of the Abkhazian government in Gudauta; Raul Lasuria, head of Tkvarcheli administration; and three Abkhazian journalists.

The Abkhazian Presidium is also protesting against the gun-point landing of another Russian helicopter in Sukhumi airport on January 19. That helicopter, reportedly, was "trying to perform rescue operations over the emergency landing site of the MI-8."

According to Gudauta, the Mi-8 helicopter was forced to land due to the damage as a result of anti-aircraft fire. In the meantime, according to the unofficial information INTERFAX received from Tbilisi, the Mi-8 helicopter, which landed on the Georgian- controlled territory, was in full order. The reason for the helicopter landing, according to this source, was that Mr. Labakhua, who is known for his loyalty to the Georgian authorities, was just looking for an opportunity to establish contact and conduct talks with them.

Mr. Labakhua used to work together with Eduard Shevardnadze when the latter was holding the post of the First Secretary of Georgia's Communist Party.

Clashes With Abkhazians Continue Near Sukhumi

OW2001135793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The last twenty-four hours has seen a continuation of clashes between Georgian and Abkhazian formations in Abkhazia. The front line on the Gumista River near Sukhumi has been the site of artillery fire. The Abkhazian defense ministry reports that Abkhazian forces suffered no casualties.

The Georgian defense ministry, for its part, reports unsuccessful attempts by Abkhazian forces to cross the Gumista on Tuesday [19 January]. Tbilisi states that the Abkhazian ranks suffered losses.

In the Ochamchir region, according to information from Tbilisi, detachments from the Georgian rapid reaction forces on Tuesday seized the village of Beslakhuba, where

they freed 38 Georgian non-combatants who had been placed under arrest. Six Abkhazians were reported killed, one Georgian soldier wounded.

According to reports from Gudauta, in the last three days, the Abkhazians took control of various population centers and commanding heights around the villages of Labra and Pokvesh, from which the city of Tkvarcheli was being fired upon. Partisans seized two tanks, three armored personnel carriers, an antiaircraft missile truck, grenade launchers, more than 20 automatic weapons, and a large amount of ammunition.

Ministry Claims Abkhazians Threatening To Kill Villagers

OW2101135693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Both Georgian and Abkhaz sources report, that there was fighting in Ochamchira region of Abkhazia during the past 24 hours. The Georgian Defence Ministry says the Abkhaz put forward an ultimatum, threatening to destroy the entire Georgian population of the village of Kutol if the shelling of Abkhaz positions outside the community was not stopped. The ultimatum was fulfilled.

According to Abkhaz sources, there were active artillery exchanges on the line of conflict, near Sukhumi. A Georgian tank and two dugouts with troops were destroyed. The Abkhaz side suffered no losses.

Abkhazian Parliament Denies Militants Seized 800 Hostages

LD2101154093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1505 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By GEORGIAN INFORMATION AGENCY for TASS]

[Text] Sukhumi January 21 TASS—Abkhazian militants have seized 800 Georgian hostages in the village of Kutol on Wednesday [20 January], according to the Georgian Headquarters in Sukhumi.

Nine of the hostages were freed to deliver an ultimatum to the Georgian authorities saying that 10 hostages will be killed for each shot fired at Abkhazian units.

* * *

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergei Ostanin]

Moscow January 21 TASS—The press centre of the Abkhazian parliament did not confirm the report on hostages. It told TASS that no active combat operations have been held of late in the conflict zone. Short clashes were registered in areas where Abkhazian guerrillas are staying.

The press centre confirmed that Abkhazians had shelled living quarters in Sukhumi, but quoted Abkhazian defence ministry as saying that Georgian artillery is deployed between houses near the frontline.

Abkhazians Accused of Human Rights Violations

OW2101201393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1917 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia has protested against the Abkhazian army's "fascist methods" in treating the civilian population during the conflict. The Georgian Charge d'Affaires in Moscow, Petr Chkheidze, has accused the Abkhazian separatists of practicing ethnic genocide.

In a written statement published on Thursday [21 Jan], Chkheidze mentions mass shootings of Georgians in the Gagra area and says that, on January 20, the Abkhazians captured some 800 Georgians near the village of Kutol in Ochamchira District. In an ultimatum with which they presented the Georgians, the Abkhazians say they will be killing ten hostages in response to every shot the Georgian army makes.

Such violations of elementary human rights should be dealt with by the world community, Chkheidze says.

'Stream of Peace' Movement to Operate in Conflict Zone

PM1901131193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 5

[Viktor Popkov report: " 'Stream of Peace' in Abkhazia"]

[Text] The leaders of Georgia and Abkhazia—E. Shevardnadze and V. Ardzinba—have approved and supported the activity of a new social movement in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone called "Stream of Peace."

This highly unusual peacemaking initiative started with the founding in Moscow of the OMEG (Organization for Ethnoharmonization Missions) Society by 16 individuals from Moscow, Baku, Stepanakert, Tomsk, and Abakan. The crux of the idea is that independent observers, missionaries, preachers, physicians, and nurses who are not involved in the hostilities should work on both sides of the interethnic conflict.

The main task of the movement's members is to gather objective information in the war zone—for instance, about the real position of Georgians in territory controlled by Abkhazians, and vice versa. This will make it possible to put a stop to a lot of monstrous rumor and conjecture, and to refute the fabrications put about by official propagandists.

The peacemakers are convinced that the way to peace lies through people's hearts. The main point of concern to them is the fate of relatives who have found themselves on different sides of the frontline. "Stream of Peace" provides information on certain people whose relatives have inquired after them. With the help of refugee committees, local deputies, and information obtained from relatives of those killed, lists are drawn up of people who are being sought. These are then verified by house-to-house checks. It is a terrible job, and dangerous too if you bear in mind

that the volunteers have just one vehicle—supplied by the Abkhazian side—and that gasoline is astronomically expensive. Nonetheless, even under these conditions they have managed to trace more than 200 families.

UN Delegation Arrives To Determine Aid Needed

LD2001093493 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] A delegation of United Nations experts and humanitarian problems begins a 10-day visit to Georgia today. It is to determine Georgia's need in relief aid and, first of all, aid to the victims of ethnic conflicts in Abkhazia and southern Ossetia. A delegation has arrived at the request of Georgia. And a group of representatives of the Government Committee for Emergency Situations arrived from Moscow to the Russian city of Sochi, near Georgia on Tuesday. It will help provide aid to the population in the regions of Abkhazia, where hostilities continue.

Defense Ministry Refutes NDP Leaders' Coup Accusations

AU1801190593 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 14 Jan 93 p 1

[Statement issued by the press service of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense; place and date not given: "A Split in the Armed Forces Is Impermissible"]

[Text] **There recently appeared in the mass media a statement by Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Giorgi Chanturia, chairman of the National Democratic Party, according to which Republic of Georgia Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani is preparing a military coup.**

This statement coincided with the extraordinary session of the Georgian Parliament on 12 January at which deputy Irina Sarishvili [wife of Giorgi Chanturia] made a groundless accusation against the Ministry of Defense and the activities of its leaders.

The press service of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense is empowered to state:

The Republic of Georgia Armed Forces and its leadership have given no cause at all for such insinuations .

The placement of military subunits at their stationing locations is connected with the systematic transfer of soldiers from the zone of military activities for treatment and rest.

Such an accusation will be viewed as an attempt to set Parliament, the Goverment and the Armed Forces, and also the people and the Army against one another.

At a time when a serious military, sociopolitical, and economic situation has taken shape in the republic and when the blood of Georgian patriots is being spilled, the statement that a military coup is being prepared in Georgia signifies a conscious attempt to make the already extremely complex situation more tense, which does great damage to the country's interests and to the strengthening of its statehood and sovereignty and undermines [bzari sheakvs] the morale of the Army and, correspondingly, the republic's defense capability, which serves Georgia's internal and external enemies.

The press service of the Ministry of Defense believes that the use of the parliamentary forum for the mutual settling of accounts with the defense minister, which resulted in his critical statement on the pages of one of the newspapers, is unacceptable particularly in his absence.

In agreement with the head of state, the defense minister and the commander of the Armed Forces are currently in a neighboring state to resolve military questions.

The press service believes that representatives of the National Democratic Party are trying hard to disgrace the name of the Army in the eyes of the public just as it is being formed, set the leaders and the rank and file against one another, and cause a split in the Armed Forces.

Shevardnadze Reports on Delegation's Visit to Iran

LD2101111593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The Georgian parliament resumed its work today after the Christmas recess. The session began with a speech by Eduard Shevardnadze who briefed deputies on the results of the official visit by a Georgian delegation to Iran. The agenda of the regular meeting of the Georgian parliamentary session also includes a debate on the draft law on weapons and the tabling of a number of amendments to laws adopted earlier on the status of deputies and standing commissions. The parliament also plans today to continue work on improving the republic's criminal trial and civic codes.

Relations, Cooperation Viewed

PM2101102193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 2

[Maksim Yusin report: "Shevardnadze Tries To Arrange Economic and Military Cooperation with Iran"]

[Text] To judge from news agency reports, the visit to Tehran by Georgian Parliament Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze has aroused heightened interest in the capital of the Islamic republic. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran personally came to the airport to welcome the Georgian leader.

The talks, which began Tuesday, are expected to last two days. "We must give a new boost to Georgian-Iranian relations, whose history goes back 26 centuries," Shevardnadze told journalists.

The arranging of ties with Tehran is of paramount importance for Georgia. Primarily from the economic viewpoint. Oil and gas deliveries from Russia have been hampered by the combat operations in Abkhazia. Negotiations to purchase fuel from other republics of the former USSR have not yielded significant results. In this situation the Georgian leaders pin special hopes on Iran. According to

Shevardnadze, a large contract to buy Iranian gas is ready for signing. Tbilisi hopes that its realization will enable it to reduce economic and political dependence on Moscow.

True, this question does arise: What will the republic, whose economy is in a lamentable state, use to settle up with Tehran? According to information which has filtered into the press, Iran is showing a special interest in military cooperation with Tbilisi. This chiefly concerns the purchase of SU-25 ground-attack aircraft, which are produced in Georgian plants. It cannot be ruled out that there will also be discussion of deliveries of spare parts for these aircraft: The Iranian Air Force has in its arsenal seven SU-25's which used to belong to Iraq. During the Gulf war they were flown to Iranian territory, and the Tehran authorities refused to return them to Saddam Husayn.

Cooperation between Tehran and Tbilisi appears equally promising in the political sphere. Mindful of the fact that Georgia's relations with all its neighbors, with the exception of Armenia which has been bled dry, are shaping up in a complex way, Iran could, in time, become Tbilisi's strategic partner in the region. Particularly as Iranian goods gain a convenient access to Central and East Europe through Georgian ports, while the shortest route from Georgia to the Persian Gulf countries passes through Iran.

To Exchange Fertilizer for Gas

OW2101175293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tbilisi and Tehran have concluded an agreement on the annual supplies of 2 billion cubic meters of Iranian gas and oil products in exchange for Georgian fertilizers (200 tons a year). This agreement was concluded during Shevardnadze's recent visit to Tehran.

Upon his return to Tbilisi, Shevardnadze described his visit as "extremely useful", as it produced 17 documents, including the declaration of the principles of bilateral relations.

Among the economic agreements reached during this visit are the agreements on cooperation in petrochemical industry, transport, housing construction, communication, trade, culture and sport.

Shevardnadze's Press Secretary Egadze announced that soon Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will pay an official visit to Georgia.

Estonia

Luik on 'Hardened' Russian Position at Military Talks

WS1901130893 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1131 GMT 18 Jan 93

[From 18 January RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT and HOMMIKULEHT, pp 1, 6]

[Text] 18 January 1993—Head of the Estonian delegation at the negotiations with Russia Juri Luik held a news conference yesterday. The changes in the Russian government have weakened the influence of the Foreign Ministry and the Russian positions have somewhat hardened as a result, he said. Political struggle between different Russian government departments and groupings was evident at the negotiations which complicated the talks, Luik told the news conference.

Little was achieved in the field of military issues. The Russian side refused to discuss the deadline of troops withdrawal or to hand over military objects from which the troops have left. The end of 1994 was offered as the deadline as before. The attitude towards Poldiski had changed and Russia will refuse to allow the IAEA commission experts to inspect the nuclear reactors, claiming that the installation is a military secret. Russia will remove the reactors when ready to do so, Admiral Fedor Gromov announced. Several business projects involving the Russian military were offered regarding Poldiski. However, the Russian side accepted the Estonian experts' evaluation of the cost of weapons taken over from the Estonian Army in 1940. Ways of compensation are considered at present, Luik said.

The free trade agreement will not be discussed until a "political decision" regarding trade with the Baltic states has been passed. The frozen 80 million dollars are seen as an internal debt and the legal entities' chances of recovering the money are slim.

In humanitarian matters the Russia side objected to the agreement on deportation of and exchange of information concerning illegal aliens as Estonia might interpret the agreement too widely, Luik continued. More objections concerned the Estonian demands of return of archives.

The agreement on areas adjacent to state borders was initialed but the Russian side refused to give a legal explanation to their version of the location of the border.

Yet the attitude of the Russian authorities to the new Estonian government is not negative, Luik stressed. Both sides are interested in a summit meeting but it can be arranged only after the major issues, for example the troop withdrawal and free trade agreements, have been agreed upon.

Russian-Estonian Talks End Without Results

PM2001090993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jan 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Golts report: "Tallinn Makes Territorial Claims. Eighth Round of Russian-Estonian Talks Ends"]

[Text] What are the diplomats talking about when it is obvious to everyone that because of fundamental differences, they are not managing to reach agreement at all? They are talking about a positive exchange of opinions and a gradual rapprochement of positions. That is exactly what Vasiliy Svirin and Juri Luik, the heads of the Russian and Estonian delegations, talked about at a press conference on the results of the latest, eighth round of talks.

Thus, the sides did not manage to resolve the fundamental question: establishing the date of the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Estonia. And while Moscow considers the end of 1994 to be a reasonable deadline, then Tallinn is insisting on mid-1993. There is also no accord concerning the future of the Russian Armed Forces' property on the territory of Estonia.

As for the fundamental question of citizenship, the approaches here are so different, that the sides did not prove able to elaborate a mutually acceptable concept, never mind an agreement. The package of border questions has still not been resolved either. The Estonian side made territorial claims against Russia, according to Vasiliy Svirkin, demanding that a border be established between the two countries in accordance with the Tartu Treaty of 1920. Furthermore, Tallinn has proposed that changes be made to the already initialed agreement on essential facilities in the contiguous territories.

All in all, a significant proportion of the 40-minute press conference was taken up by mutual assurances by the two high contracting parties concerning their complete respect for one another and translations from Estonian into Russian. The only obvious result of the talks was the decision on the scheduling of the next round. It will be held at the end of February in Estonia.

At times it seems that the law of the conservation of energy operates not only in physics, but also in international relations. As soon as we had learned to resolve the most complex problems with Washington within a short timeframe, we had to gear ourselves to an endless diplomatic marathon with Tallinn.

Move for Autonomy for Russians Fails To Gain Support

LD1701153393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1424 GMT 17 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Kapov]

[Text] Narva January 17 TASS—A large-scale action designed to press for autonomy for northeastern regions of Estonia failed after residents of the city of Narva populated mostly by Russians refused to support it on Sunday.

The action was timed to coincide with the arrival of Max van der Stoel, supreme commissar of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) for ethnic minorities. Two days ago its initiators distributed leaflets in Narva urging its residents to hold a rally in front of the city council on Sunday and to vote for the secession of northeastern districts from Estonia.

The leaflets signed by "the committee for the autonomy of northeastern Estonia" accused former Soviet President Mikhail "Gorbachev of surrendering Baltic Russia which stretches from Narva river to Tallinn to Estonian nationalists."

The organisers of the rally urged people to express their demand for the succession by putting stones in front of the city council. However, by Sunday noon there were only five stones the size of a potato left by two pensioners.

'Democratic Russia' Urges Protection of Russians' Rights

WS1901131193 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1131 GMT 18 Jan 93

[From 18 January PAEVALEHT, p 3]

[Text] 18 January 1993—The "Democratic Russia" movement has published a statement directed at the Estonian and Latvian democratic public. While the statement criticizes the exploitation of the situation of Russians living in the Baltic states, it points out that this has been facilitated by the activities of the Estonian and Latvian authorities. The citizenship laws are described as discriminating and excluding the Russians from privatization and elections. The movement calls for all democratically minded Estonians and Latvians to protect the rights of the Russians in the Baltic states.

Communications Agreement Concluded With Russia

WS2101130293 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1146 GMT 20 Jan 93

[From 20 January RAHVA HAAL, p 1]

[Text] 20 January 1993—Several agreements on communication services between Estonia and Russia were signed in Moscow on Tuesday [19 January].

"There are frame agreements, according to which work groups will continue negotiations on concrete ways of cooperation," Road and Communications Minister Andi Meister told BNS. Meister and Russia's Post and Communications Minister Vladimir Sulgak signed agreements on cooperation in communications and telecommunications as well as post service relations and division of radio frequencies.

Council of Europe Committee Meets in Tallinn

OW2001141193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1322 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] David Atkinson, president of the Council of Europe's Committee for Non-European Community Countries, expressed the hope that Estonia will join the EC in 1993. He said, on Tuesday [19 January] at a press conference in Tallinn, that Lithuania's admission to the Community will be considered in May, and, as for Latvia, no decision will be made before the presidential election is over in that country.

Atkinson said countries wishing to join the Council of Europe have to meet very strict demands. He said the Estonian Constitution does meet such demands, nor does the EC have any complaints to make about the September parliamentary election in that country. He expressed the hope that Estonia will eventually solve its citizenship problems. He said people applying for Estonian citizenship should realize that it is impossible to automatically grant it to all those who came to the country in the course of migration processes "unparalleled in history." The Council of Europe Committee on Tuesday held a session in Tallinn, meeting with Parliament Chairman Ulo Nugis, Prime Minister Mart Laar, and national minority representatives. In the evening, Atkinson was received by President Lennart Meri.

On Wednesday, the committee members were to visit one of the Russian military bases. The Russian command not having allowed them to visit Paldiski, they will see the bases in Viimsi which the Russian army has already handed over to Estonia.

Also on Wednesday, the committee members are going to Riga to hold a session which is to continue till Thursday.

State Assembly Ratifies Agreement With EC

OW2101223293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1910 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [21 January], the Estonian State Assembly ratified the trade and economic cooperation agreement between Estonia and the European Economic Community which was signed in Brussels on May 11, 1992.

The agreement provides for the parties' status of most favored nations in trade. The agreement is covering industrial and agricultural produce, except coal, metals and textiles. The sides will warrant to one another various benefits in regards to customs tariffs, taxation, banking transfers, etc.

Government Wants To Join Chemical Weapons Production Ban

WS2101130193 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1146 GMT 20 Jan 93

[From 20 January RAHVA HAAL, p 1]

[Text] 20 January 1993—The state enterprise "Estonian Metal Export" (EMEX) has caused lots of discussion lately due to banning purchase of metal from individuals and the

idea to free EMEX from customs tax. The government found that this would solve no problems if favourable conditions are set to one of the enterprises dealing with metal business. It was decided that the Finance Ministry together with EMEX Director General Robert Lepikson will have to make concrete suggestions for regulation of customs taxes.

The draft law on local administrative elections was on its first reading [sentence as received]. Although the technical side of the draft was well done, some political questions arise. The government should pass the draft next week after discussing it with local governments.

Director General of State Property Department Riho Rasmann gave a survey of the course of privatization. During the two years since the start of small privatization, the department has registered 1212 objects, 676 of which have been sold. The state has got 29 million kroons, 25 of which was paid last year. Purchase and sales agreements have been concluded for 64 million kroons, but it often concerns hire-purchase and all the money has not been paid yet. There is a set of problems going with privatization. One of the most important is that small-scale privatization and large-scale privatization have been separated from each other. There are too many bureaucratic bodies which have the decisive word in it. The State Property Department will present its solutions to the government.

The government decided that although Estonia owns no bacteriological or chemical weapons, we should join the convention banning production, development and store of chemical weapon and calling on its abolition. This is necessary to prove that we are entering a normal society, Laar said. The Riigikogu will have to make the final decision. The Riigikogu will also have to establish an immigration quota for the running year.

The government decided to give the 2.9 hectars of land in Randvere tee 71 Merivalja, to the children village as there are no applications of former owners for getting back the land. The village will be ready in two years and will cost 3 million dollars.

The transmission of Russian TV broadcasts was discussed. As the Russian side has promised to present its suggestions as to the transmission, no decision was made yet.

Foreign Minister Addresses Meeting of Ambassadors

OW1801142593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1146 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Developing relations with North European, Baltic region, and West European countries, as well as with the United States, Japan, China, and India, is an area of high priority in Estonia's foreign policy, Estonian Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste said on Sunday [17 January] at a press conference held to sum up the second conference of Estonian ambassadors held in Tallinn.

He said the new Estonian government will apparently dismiss none of the present ambassadors, but the diplomatic service will be expanded since the country will have more embassies. Thus, there will shortly be an embassy in Austria, a fact to which Estonia attaches serious importance since it will open up good opportunities for developing relations with Czechia, Slovakia, and Hungary, and also because several international organizations have their headquarters in Vienna, Velliste said.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry, he said, in order to prevent objectionable visitors and refugees from third countries from entering their country, is going to put an end to the practice of issuing visas directly on the border. This will only be done by consulates. For this purpose, Estonia will, in particular, enlarge its consulate in St. Petersburg and open one in Pskov.

The minister told Baltfax the absence of Russia on the foreign policy priority list does not mean Estonia has lost interest in its eastern neighbor. Estonia was and is enormously interested in Russia and is willing to have extensive cooperation with it, he said.

However, Estonian-Russian relations have lately been somewhat waning, the minister said. One of the concrete indications of this was the "failure" of the negotiations in Nakhabino finished on Friday. This state of affairs has, among other things, been caused by Russia's intransigence as regards the schedule for the withdrawal of its armed forces from Estonia, as well as by some trade and economic issues, Velliste said.

National Budget for 1993 3.67 Billion Kroons

WS1901130793 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1742 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Tallinn, 15 January 1993—Estonia's national budget for the 1993 fiscal year is 3.67 billion kroons, Ants Liiver, the new head of the country's budget department of the Ministry of Finances told ETA.

"During the debate over the draft budget the proportions of costs and revenues can be changed, but the budget must stay balanced. The total sum of 3.67 billion kroons will remain unchanged," Liiver said.

The draft budget is under discussion in the budget commission of the country's Riigikogu.

Latvia

Foreign Ministry Terms Russian Statement 'Threat'

WS1901131493 Riga LETA in English 0559 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Statement issued by the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 15 January 1993]

[Text] On January 14, 1993, V. Kostikov, the Russia President's Press Secretary, issued a statement about the domestic political situation in the Republic of Latvia, his

statement discusses the allegedly existing massive violations of human rights in Latvia, evaluates the policies of Parliament and Government in an unobjective and offensive manner, and expresses direct threats to our state.

In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers it necessary to issue the following statement.

We are deeply alarmed by Russia's unfriendly step in relations with Latvia which despite existing serious contradictions on individual issues, including the withdrawal of Russia's military forces, has always attempted to establish stable, friendly relation with Russia. This step calls forth yet greater alarm because it is taken on the eve of the next round of negotiations about the withdrawal of Russia's military forces, and will in no way further the formation of a favourable background for this process. This statement was also made just before the arrival in Latvia of the CSCE high commissioner for National Minorities, who would be able to present the most objective evaluation of events besides those conclusions which have already been made by authoritative international experts including the U.N. Commission.

Firstly, the tone and phrases of the Russia President's Press Secretary statement are categorically unacceptable to us. Such a tone is not accepted and is not allowed in relations between states, and we are inclined to view this statement as rash and ill- considered. Even more so because this statement which would allegedly be addressed to the protection of the interests of the Russians living in Latvia, actually only complicates their situation by confrontation with the majority of our population.

The absence of any arguments, facts and even simple logic in this statement denies us the opportunity to engage in a discussion of the issues mentioned therein. Thus, we would only like to present a statement of our political assessment.

Firstly, it violates one of the basic principles of international rights—the principle of non-interference which is included in such international documents as the U.N. statutes, the 1965 U.N. Declaration on the Unallowability on Interference in Another State's Affairs, the protection of its sovereignty and independence, and the CSCE Helsinki Final Act.

We realize that this statement has been issued after serious changes in Russia's own domestic politics. We would like to hope that it is not a messenger of future unfriendly acts against Latvia. Similar actions would not further the resolution of the existing disagreements nor the formation of friendly neighbor relations.

[Dated] January 15, 1993

Russian Troop Withdrawal Discussed in Jurmala

LD1901190793 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] On the first day of talks in Jurmala, the delegations of Latvia and Russia discussed questions that have caused differences of opinion. For example, the leader of the Russian delegation held that the troop withdrawal is being seriously hindered by the Latvian side not agreeing to recruits being brought into Latvia, because as a result there is a lack of manpower for loading military materials into railroad cars and vehicles. Mrs Yakimenko, representative of the Russian Parliament, even asserted that the wives of officers had to do this work and are also participating in guarding the facilities.

The Russian side talked at length about violations of human rights here. Mr. Zotov judged the statement by Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, as indisputable. He also said that the democratic romanticism which prevailed in Russia when the independence of the Baltic states was recognized has not, unfortunately, linked this recognition with a document which would regulate the withdrawal of troops; such a lack is now seriously hampering this process.

One of the main obstacles to the troop withdrawal is, as before, the difficulty in solving social questions in Russia. The Russian side also asserted that there have been no instances of secretly bringing recruits into Latvia from Russia.

The schedules and dates of the troop withdrawal, and also the ownership rights of Russia to the immovable property managed by the Russian Army, remain important issues in the talks.

1994 'Most Realistic' Time for Withdrawal

OW1901185293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1753 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The next round of talks between the Russian and Latvian state delegations began in Jurmala, near the Latvian capital, on Tuesday [19 January]. The main subjects the parties will address during the talks will be the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the Latvian territory.

Lieutenant General Viktor Samoilov, adviser to the Russia's First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko who is heading the RF [Russian Federation] government delegation for the Russian troops withdrawal from the Baltic republics, told BALTFAX that talks with Latvia and Estonia are especially difficult. In the words of the Russian government, the Baltic countries are now pursuing the policy of procrastinating the negotiations process, thereby creating "unbearable conditions" for the troops and forcing them to leave, abandoning their equipment. All this is done, he said, under the pretext of ecological claims and the disguise of political and nationalistic slogans.

In the words of General Samoilov, Moscow will still be insisting on concluding with Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius the agreements that would clearly define Russia's interests in these regions. Russia's interests, in the meantime, lie in rendering support to the Russian- speaking population in the Baltic states and establishing the date for the Russian troops withdrawal that would not aggravate the social

tension in the Russian Federation. "The most realistic terms would be the end of 1994," General Samoilov said.

The General did not exclude a possibility that Russia would take a more rigid stance with respect of the Baltic states, lest they continue to procrastinate the negotiations process.

In the words of General Samoilov, currently stationed in the Baltic states are nearly 50,000 Russian troops.

Defense Minister Jundzis Comments

LD2001023193 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] [Announcer] Today in Jurmala, talks began between representatives of Russia and Latvia on the withdrawal of troops under Russia's jurisdiction from the territory of the Republic of Latvia. More about what happened today in Jurmala is told by one of the members of the delegation of the Republic of Latvia, Talavs Jundzis, minister of defense of the Republic of Latvia. In the late afternoon he was met in Riga for questions by correspondent Janis Podins.

[Begin recording] [Podins] Minister, the first day of talks with Russia is over. How did it go?

[Jundzis] Today we were divided into groups, in which solutions to separate questions were formulated, and a plenary session took place. It must be said that the Russian side had also proposed one, well, should I say, strange document on the social provisions for Russian troops on Latvian territory. Why was it strange? Because such questions had turned up [words indistinct] after the first round of talks. Here again, however, they raised questions such as the assigning of citizenship to soldiers of the Russian Army, as well as the privatization of [word indistinct] housing, and other questions. In turn, at the plenary session, questions of a more global nature were taken up. The work concerned such issues as the schedule and deadlines for the withdrawal of Russian troops, information about Russian troops, and the right of the Latvian side to inspect and examine the Russian troops. In the second half of the day the plenary session again discussed the question of its own property. There was a question touched on by one of the working groups, about the actual military industrial plants and the other immovable property to which the Republic of Latvia is legally laying claim, and the [word indistinct] of this property. A working group was convened to summarize tomorrow's plenary session. However, concerning the issues dealt with in today's plenary session that I mentioned, there unfortunately was no forward movement in the discussion of any of these global matters (?or the smaller) issues. Unfortunately, we did not receive from the Russian side any answer as to whether the matter we started with remains, the announcement by the Russian side that the forces will be removed in 1994. This is regardless of the fact that Latvia's demand remains to be for their withdrawal by this year; not even on this (?basic) question was there any clear answer. What is more, there was not even an answer on receiving information about the size of the current force, or even about the right to examine the troops. The broadest discussion, and you could say it is still fruitless, was the one about the property here, because the Russian side behaves as if the military (?industries that are essential here) are only to be viewed as Russian property; as a great compromise they are offering a version whereby they could be formed into shareholding companies. That stance was not acceptable to the rest of us (?as you will appreciate). In the morning the discussion of this question will continue, as well. [end recording]

Talks Fail To Resolve Issues

LD2001203493 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] The Latvian-Russian talks on the withdrawal of the Army can be regarded as ended. Although there was no concurrence of views on several issues, such as the use of transport, redeployment of the Navy and other new problems, it was not possible to move appreciably forward. There is still no determined schedule, or a deadline for the withdrawal of the Army, nor has the property issue been settled. Many [word indistinct] issues will have to be settled at the next round of talks.

Delegation Leader Dinevics Comments

LD2001205093 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] The regular talks between Russia and Latvia on a Russian Army withdrawal ended today in Jurmala. The next talks are planned for February, in Moscow. After the talks between both sides a news conference was held. Listen to an excerpt of what the leader of the Latvian delegation, Janis Dinevics, said.

[Begin Dinevics recording, in Russian fading into Latvian translation] An analysis of these talks can be divided into two parts—what succeeded in being accomplished, and what did not. We provisionally initialled the texts of three agreements and, in addition, solved some problems connected with education. The most important questions have not, in principle, moved forward. This concerns the deadline for the withdrawal of the Army. Moreover, the Russian side now connects the fixed date, 1994, with some additional conditions. One would also like to see the Army withdrawal schedule. The other more important problem is that of property rights. There were differences of opinion on this from the beginning of the talks, and we will not be able to manage without an arbitrator. Without solving this question it is not possible to tackle other questions, such as the problems of those people who work at the Army factories. Also a demand by Latvia for payment for the electricity, gas and various services used by the Army was submitted to the Russian side. A document was also submitted in which compensation is demanded for the losses incurred in 1940 when the Red Army took over the property of the Latvian Army. [end recording]

No Agreement Reached

OW2101113793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1102 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Another round of Latvian-Russian talks ended ahead of time on Wednesday in the resort town of Jurmala. No concrete understandings were reached on the time of the withdrawal of Russian troops or army property.

The head of the Latvian delegation Janis Dinevics told a Wednesday [20 January] news conference that though under a previous agreement Russian troops are to pull out by the end of 1994, the Russian side has not yet produced a schedule of withdrawal. Besides, Russia came out with additional demands. The Russian army owes the Latvian authorities 9 Bn [billion] roubles for the use of land and electricity.

The head of the Russian delegation Sergey Zotov said the Russian army is leaving behind over 18,000 buildings and other property worth billions of roubles. He said the payment of electricity bills and a land tax was out of the question because the troops do not protect Russian interests in Latvian territory but are units of the former Soviet Army. They were sent to Latvia by the Soviet Union and Latvia is a legal successor of the USSR the same as Russia.

Further on Talks

LD2101213193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1341 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The fifth round of Russian-Latvian talks has ended in Riga. What has been attained at the talks and what has not? Innart Skuins, our correspondent in Latvia, has the details:

[Skuins] Speaking about Tuesday's talks, taking into account the complex situation in interstate relations, success was possible only if both sides showed readiness for mutual compromises. But this did not happen. Figuratively speaking, the delegations spoke different languages. The only thing they managed was to prepare and initial three documents which would regulate the technical aspects of the withdrawal of Russian troops. Also, a couple of agreements in the area of education were reached.

The main thing, however, is that final time limits for withdrawing Russian troops have not been defined and contentious issues regarding property have not been resolved.

While experts were working in groups on such issues as rail transportation, customs accords, sea transportation, issues of a social nature, and property, politicians discussed more general topics. As became clear at a news conference after the talks, they had been more concerned with such questions as Who is to blame? or Who is the owner? But how are we going to live in the future and what shape will relations with Russia will take? It is these questions that are important, and all residents of Latvia, regardless of their ethnic origin, are anxious to get answers to them.

Since the discussions produced nothing, the round of talks ended a day early. At a farewell news conference given by Janis Dinevics, head of the Latvian delegation [passage indistinct].

Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation, tried to prove that after the union had collapsed Latvia got more property than it should, and that, Russia, in Zotov's words, made a mistake and that history would not forgive those officials who gave Latvia independence even without agreeing conditions.

Janis Dinevics believes that Latvia should once again draw the internatonal public's attention to Russia's reluctance to set final time limits for withdrawing its troops. He does not rule out the possibility of holding the next round in a third country and inviting international experts, for instance, from Finland, Denmark or Norway.

Sergey Zotov described this idea as most blatant pressure on Russia, which, in Sergey Zotov's view, had been so magnanimous toward Latvia and so conscientious in implementing internatonal agreements.

The Latvian side cited a number of instances of Russian troops violating previously attained agreements. But one could quote both sides ad infinitum.

In conclusion I would like to say that althouth the meeting and discussions produced no results, there is hope that the Russian- Latvian talks will continue in a month's time.

[Announcer] Was this mentioned? What is the schedule for the next round?

[Skuins] No definite time was given but it was said at the news conference that the next meeting could be in a month.

Ministry of Defense Disputes Russian Data on Troops

LD1801133993 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0530 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Latvia has distributed a statement disputing a Russian Federation Ministry of External Affairs report on Russian troops deployed in Latvia. The Russian report, which was issued in connection with the Vienna agreement on conventional weapons in Europe, has been submitted to the Republic of Latvia, and the Ministry of Defense statement says, the data reflecting the personnel composition and armaments of the Russian troops deployed in Latvia corresponds to their personnel list and not to the true number. Moreover, the submitted report has no data at all on many units of troops of the Russian Army deployed in Latvia, naval ports, ammunition storage places, and other big and important military facilities.

On the basis of these arguments, the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Latvia announces that, in the expected talks on the withdrawal of the occupation troops, the Latvian delegation cannot use the facts reflected in this informative report as a basis.

Military Statistics Differ

WS1901131593 Riga LETA in English 0559 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 18 January 1993 (LETA)—The newspaper "Diyena" informs its readers that the Russian Ministry of Defence has presented a report to the Latvian Ministry of Defence on numerical strength and armament of its troops in accordance with Vienna treaty on conventional weapons in Europe. The newspaper "Diyena" points out that the reported data differ from the information of the Latvian Ministry of Defence. The document presented by Russia states that there are 8 military units with 16,174 military men on the territory of Latvia. According to the information of the Latvian Ministry of Defence there are 681 military units and 27 thousand of personnel in Latvia. The data concerning a number of weapons, belonging to the Russian federation, also differ. Moreover, the Russian document gives no information of Russian military units of anti-aircraft defence, deployed on the territory of Latvia, nothing is said about the strength of the Russian navy, frontier troops, intelligence and counter-intelligence forces. There isn't a single word in the document about Skrunda's anti-missile radio-locator, the centre of observation of cosmic radiation in the Ventspils region, about huge ammunition depots and other objectives on the territory of Latvia. The Latvian Deputy Minister of Defence, Valdis Pavlovskis, stated that Russia's armed forces still occupy Latvia, they occupy approximately 70 thousand hectares of the Republic. These forces, supported from abroad, are quite enough to overthrow the Latvian Government and return to the past in case of crisis in Latvia.

Paper Cites Figures of Russian Military Presence

PM2101093393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Jan 93 p 1

[Valeriy Gromak report under the "From Our Information Bureau" rubric: "Latest Round of Talks Has Opened"]

[Text] Talks on problems connected with the Russian troops' presence in and withdrawal from the republic continued in Riga 19 January. A Latvian Ministry of Defense press statement was published in the newspapers the day before, stating that at present there are 681 Russian military units in the republic occupying 70,000 hectares of state territory.

A total of 27,000 Russian servicemen are doing their military service on Latvian territory. Of these, 11,000 are officers and warrant officers. The largest personnel contingent—11,000 men including 3,400 officers and 7,600 sailors—belongs to the Baltic Fleet.

Russian Command Censures Latvian Defense Ministry Release

OW2101084993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0011 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian Russian-language paper "PANORAMA LATVII" (Latvian Panorama) carries a statement by the Command of the North-Western Group of Forces [N-WGF] in response to the Latvian MOD [Ministry of Defense] information release in regards to the strength of the Russian troops in Latvia and the progress of their withdrawal. The N-WGF Command characterizes as inequitable the Latvian MOD release, which was circulated in anticipation of the next round of the Russian-Latvian talks, saying it is aimed at "straining the relations between the two countries and building up passions around the Russian troops to be withdrawn from Latvia."

Defense Minister Issues Statement on Russian Brigade

LD1801202693 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Latvia's Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis today sent a statement to Minister of State Janis Dinevics. This has been done in connection with regard to the fact that beginning 1 January 1993, the leadership of the Russian Northwest Group of Troops formed on Latvian territory the 25th Separate Motorized Riflemen's Brigade. Judging from its numerical strength, armaments, and technical provisions, a very powerful rapid reaction troop unit is being formed at Dobele, for which the Russian General Staff has envisaged two strategically important tasks. First, to destabilize the situation in Latvia, and second, in the event of international military-political complications in Europe, to ensure that Russian troops concentrated in the Kaliningrad oblast have an opportunity of making an assault in the direction of Riga.

By that action, Russia coarsely violates the communique of 1 February 1992 on the withdrawal of troops from the territory of the Republic of Latvia.

Defense Ministry Protests Russian Infantry Brigade

WS2001130393 Tallinn BNS in English 1216 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 19 January 1993, BNS—The Latvian Defense Ministry expressed protest against formation of the 25th Russian infantry brigade on the Latvian territory January 1.

The ministry's statement says the development might be allegedly aimed at causing constant threat to the Latvian capital, Riga, destabilization of the political situation, organization of a coup in case of political crisis, and facilitating the Kaliningrad military grouping an attack in the Riga direction in case of military conflicts in Europe.

With favorable preconditions, Russia might materialize all of its political and strategic objectives in the Baltic region within one day with the help of the respective brigade.

Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis of Latvia believes Russia has blatantly violated international instruments, such as the communique of 1992 on the troops' withdrawal; pacts

of Helsinki and Munich on the troops' withdrawal from the Baltic States, as well as the international law.

The formation of the brigade being a one-sided act, Russia has nevertheless attempted to gain international acknowledgement of the fact, by enclosing it in a document drafted to comply with the Vienna agreement on conventional weapons in Europe.

The Latvian Defense Ministry described the move as fully corresponding to statements by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev of Russia in Stockholm that "Russia will use all means to achieve rejoining of the Baltics to Russia."

Russian Army Refuses Entrance to Latvian Officials

LD1701144393 Riga Radio Riga International in English 1900 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] The management of the Russian Northwestern Army division in Latvia says it will not allow Latvian authorities to enter the territory of the [word indistinct] port at Bolderaja in Riga unless the Russian Defense Ministry issues an appropriate permit. The Latvian Minister of State, Janis Dinevics, who was expecting to visit the Bolderaja military installation, will not be given permission to do it. According to a document signed on 6 January, the military labor department located on the port's territory is to be handed over to the local government of the Riga [name indistinct] district. Meanwhile, a customs zone has been created around the port's territory to monitor the activities of various commercial establishments who often illegally bypass customs control by (?channelling) their goods through the military port, says Riga customs director (?Zigmas Tomasuns). The manager [as heard] of the port does not oppose the decision as it is also interested in controlling the extensive commercial activities at Bolderaja port, according to (?Tomasuns).

Russian Training Ground Causes 'Considerable Damage'

WS2001130593 Riga LETA in English 0416 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Saldus, 19 January 1993 (LETA)—In Zvardes Rural District, about 150 km southwest of Riga, no more roaring jets and explosions of bombs are heard. The training ground of the Russian Air Forces has been handed over to the local authorities, and its personnel is about to leave. The site is being guarded by Militia now.

Experts estimate that the occupation army has caused the Latvian agriculture a considerable damage and the sum of money needed to repair it and to restore the soil for an active agricultural utilization amounts to 24.8 billion roubles.

Russian Intelligence Services Said Still Operating

WS2101130793 Tallin BNS in English 1837 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 20 January 1993, BNS—The Latvian Defense Ministry says over 20 different Russian security service, military, intelligence and counter-intelligence agencies are still operating in Latvia, particularly in the port cities of Ventspils and Liepaja and the capital Riga.

The ministry has issued a document signed by the Defense Minister Talays Jundzis which says the information gathered by these services is sent to Moscow and after processing and analyzing it, is presented to the Russian president Boris Yeltsin in the form of informative articles.

Russia's foreign policy in the Baltic region, which has lately acquired an imperialistic tinge, is largely based on the information sent by its intelligence services, according to the document.

It says Russia's intelligence services in Latvia are also engaged in gathering "other types of information" and recruiting informers.

According to the Latvian Defense Ministry, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, all former intelligence agencies of the Baltic military district were transferred under the command of the Northwestern army group's headquarters.

Gorbunovs Invited to Clinton Celebration; Unable To Attend

WS2101131193 Riga LETA in English 0102 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 20 January 1993 (LETA)—Anatolijs Gorbunovs, the chairman of the Supreme Council of Latvia has received an invitation to the traditional breakfast of the Prayers' Day, which will be given by the newly elected President of the USA Bill Clinton after his inauguration, according to Karina Petersone, an Aide of the Head of the State.

Anatolijs Gorbunovs has thanked Bill Clinton for the invitation. Unfortunately, the chairman of the Supreme Council will not be able to attend the breakfast because of his busy schedule, therefore he has asked the Latvian Ambassador in the USA to represent Latvia in this reception, as well as in all the ceremonies related to inauguration of the President-Elect.

Interior Ministry Signs Agreement With Azerbaijan

OW1901180193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1446 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [18 January], the Latvian Foreign Minister, Ziedonis Cevers, and the deputy Interior Minister of Azerbaijan, Mamedag Jafarov, signed an agreement in Riga on cooperation between the Interior Ministries of their countries.

Cevers told a news conference after the ceremony that Latvia has similar agreements with all former Soviet republics, except Turkmenistan. The agreement will help Latvia benefit from Azeri experience in combatting drug trafficking.

Finance Minister Submits Resignation

OW2001133993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1322 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian Finance Minister, Elmars Silins, has handed in his resignation. According to the DIYENA newspaper, Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis declined to comment on this.

A Finance Ministry spokesman said that Silins's decision has nothing to do either with his possible future political activities or with his membership in the new government or with this year's budget deficit.

Silins himself said his decision has been motivated by "the different attitudes of government ministers to matters which should mainly come within the competence of the Finance Ministry."

Social Democratic Labor Party Holds Congress

WS1901131693 Riga LETA in English 0559 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 18 January 1993 (LETA)—The 23rd Congress of the Latvian Social Democratic Labour Party (The LSDLP) was held in Riga.

Egils Baldzens was elected new chairman of the party. The list with the names of the party's candidates for the up-coming parliamentary elections has been approved.

The congress also approved the party's political declaration, the main platforms of which are to restore the constitutional power, to provide efficiency of democracy and create conditions for survival and development of the nation of Latvians.

The congress also approved the party's social program and a number of resolutions. It has been decided that the party's newspaper "Briviba" ("Liberty") will be issued in Riga.

Previously, it was published abroad.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Congratulates President Clinton

LD2001212893 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Acting President Algirdas Brazauskas sent a congratulatory telegram to Mr. Clinton, in which he expressed a hope that relations between Lithuania and the United States would become closer and will be built on friendship and mutual understanding.

This evening Mr. Brazauskas took part in the reception held by the U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania, Darryl Johnson, to commemorate Mr. Clinton's inauguration.

Brazauskas Meets U.S. Military Delegation

LD1801171393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1602 GMT 18 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius January 18 TASS—Acting Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazaukas on Monday [18 January] recieved a United States military delegation, led by National Guard Deputy Commander Major-General Raymond Rice and Brigadier General Thomas Lennon.

Lithuanian National Guard Minister Audrius Butkevicius, present at the meeting, told ITAR-TASS the discussion "concerned establishing direct contacts between American and Lithuanian military organizations and the chance for Lithuanian cadets to study at American military institutes and universities".

Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys also meet the high- ranking American military delegation today, which is in the republic on a working visit. The American generals were interested in the process and timetable of the withdrawl of Russian troops from the republic, the development of contacts between the American and Lithuanian militaries, and giving any possible help to the republic.

The American generals also visited the National Guard Ministry, met with its leadership, and watched manoeuvres and training in some Lithuanian Army garrison units.

Brazauskas Receives National Guard Official

WS2001130793 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1439 GMT 19 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 167]

[Text] 19 January 1993—Yesterday Acting President of the Republic of Lithuania Algirdas Brazauskas received the USA military delegation headed by Major General of the USA National Guard Raymond F. Rees. Acting President was informed about the initial stage of the preparation of a programme of cooperation between the National Guard of the USA and the Voluntary National Defence Service (SKAT) of Lithuania. The meeting was also attended by the Lithuanian national Defence Minister Audrius Butkevicius and the USA Ambassador to Lithuania Darryl N. Johnson. The USA military delegation took part in the second anniversary of SKAT and the events devoted to the occasion.

The USA delegation was also received by the Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys. The participants of the meeting positively assessed the incipient cooperation between the military structures of both countries noting that it should be extended and better coordinated. With this view in mind a suggestion was made to set up special working groups and mutual coordination council which might reside in Lithuania. The work of these structures and the training of the Lithuanian military in some special fields might be financed by the USA. The participants of the meeting exchanged their views on the withdrawal of

the Russian armed forces from Lithuania and discussed some other issues of mutual interest.

Brazauskas Comments on 1993 Budget

WS2101130693 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1439 GMT 20 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 168]

[Text] 20 January 1993—Yesterday the Seym of Lithuania further discussed the state budget for 1993. The acting President Algirdas Brazauskas said that the most important thing today is to survive. The Lithuanian agriculture is facing the most difficult situation. Compensation funds for agriculture are insufficient, more money should be granted to separate farmers and agricultural organizations. It is necessary to find possibilities for financial increase and a better distribution of granted money.

Speaking about additional income of the budget, the acting President noted that most of it could be collected through taxes. However, part of the taxes are being concealed and various fines are being unpaid. This could make billions of talonas. Algirdas Brazauskas offered to improve and strengthen the work of the tax inspection which should be responsible for the exaction of different taxes. This kind of institution should be supported by the State Control Department.

"Though we are facing a shortage of money, we should find it for two things—the visit of the Pope and the construction of the monument to the Fighters for the Lithuanian Independence in the Antakalnis cemetery", Brazauskas said.

Many financial problems could be solved with the help of charity and sponsorship. Some joint stock companies have already started constructing homes for old people and other socially needed objects.

Algirdas Brazauskas said that he was satisfied with the unanimous work of the oppositional group and the majority of the Seym while discussing the state's budget. Both parties presented a number of constructive suggestions and projects.

Holds News Conference 22 Jan

LD2201131593 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Acting Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas held a news conference this morning in the Seimas building. He recalled that on 16 February the 75th anniversary of Lithuania's independence will be marked. We intend to celebrate it in a very solemn manner. On 15 July, 60 years will have elapsed since the Lithuanian flyers, Darius and Girenas, flew over the Atlantic. This date will be celebrated as well. A commission is being formed to deal with all issues linked with the expected visit to Lithuania by the pope in September of this year.

Algirdas Brazauskas said that in preparing his annual report, delivered yesterday at the plenary sitting of the Seimas, a great deal of various information has been amassed; it will be generalized.

Replying to the question of whether the LDLP [Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party] would monopolize all power if he is elected president, Algirdas Brazauskas recalled the constitutional rule that the president must cease political activity in any political party. At present the LDLP has obtained a majority in the Seimas by the will of the people. I do not agree with statements that the LDLP is a former communist party, said Algirdas Brazauskas at the press conference. There are former communists in all parties of the post-communist states.

The problem of the forgery of the present Lithuanian money was mentioned at the press conference. Acting President Brazauskas said that the responsibility for this must be assumed by the state, and the Bank of Lithuania should exchange the forged coupons obtained by people by genuine ones.

In the opinion of Algirdas Brazauskas, it would not be expedient to introduce the litas immediately, as it is essential to properly analyze economic and financial opportunities.

Foreign Minister Accuses Russia of 'Unacceptable Demands'

OW1901175093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1446 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "I am surprised that some politicians are trying to privatize the affairs of the state, including foreign affairs". This was the comment of the Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gilys, on the recent declarations by the head of the official delegation on talks with Russia, Ceslovas Stankevicius, and the leader of the opposition in the Sejm, Vytautas Landsbergis.

The two accused Russia of making unacceptable demands and insisting on changes in the Lithuanian official delegation.

The minister said he met delegation members several times and asked for proof of changes in the Russian stand at the talks with Lithuania, of pressure on the Lithuanian side and interference in Lithuanian internal affairs. However, he said nothing concrete was produced.

Gilys said that, in the next few days, decisions will be made on the composition of the Lithuanian official delegation to the talks with Russia.

At a Tuesday [19 January] news conference, Gilys admitted that the negotiations with Russia are not simple, but all problems are resolved without "strong words".

The chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee, Kazys Bobelis, who attended the news conference, said relations with Russia will be discussed on Wednesday at a committee session attended by members of the official delegation and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Russian Troop Withdrawal 'Running to Schedule'

PM1901101593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By I. Grigoryev from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Grigoryev over video of map] An agreement on the Russian troop withdrawal was signed between Lithuania and Russia last September. At that time, there were still 22,000 Russian servicemen in Lithuania, including five motorized infantry divisions. By the end of last year, 78 percent of the former Soviet Army's units had already left the republic's territory. Fifty-two military installations were transferred to the Lithuanian side, including the infamous Northern Barracks [severnyy gorodok] in the center of Vilnius. Nowadays, not a single Russian soldier remains in the Lithuanian capital. All of this indicates that in principle the troops' withdrawal plan is running to schedule. However, the withdrawal of Russian Navy subdivisions has yet to begin, and there are delays in restationing Russian Air Force units. [Video shows various types of military hardware moving along highways.]

Data Given on Withdrawal of Russian Army

WS1901132593 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1424 GMT 15 Jan 93

["The Withdrawal of the Russian Army From Lithuanian Territory (Data Compiled January 7, 1993)"—ELTA headline; from ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 165]

[Text] 15 January 1993—At the beginning of September, 1992, there were 20-22 thousand soldiers from the Russian army on Lithuanian territory. There were five divisions—in all 288 separate battle and service sections, units and sub units (some belonged to the mentioned divisions).

According to the schedule, the Russian army should be led out of the Republic of Lithuania territory by August 31, 1993. Until the end of 1992 (first stage) 61 military units (sub-units) had to leave Lithuania: 23—belonging to the Army, 1—the airborne landing forces, 4—antiaircraft defence, 30—military air forces, 3—belonging to the Navy. To this day 47 military units have left (according to the withdrawal schedule 78 percent until 92.12.31.)

The first stage of the Russian military withdrawal from Lithuania ended on December 31, 1992. Judging on the results, the main targets of this etape were fulfilled.

All the military parts and units have respected the schedule except the 3rd coast guard division (Klaipeda, Telsiai), 367th separate helicopter regiment in Kaunas, 177th separate radio- electronic division of the air regiment in Siauliai.

Though already begun, the withdrawal of the air forces is proceeding slowly. The military air forces units have not left according to their set date by the end of 1992.

The withdrawal of the Navy has not yet been started.

52 military objects have been taken over since the signing of the schedule. The largest objects to be returned: the Siaures Miestelis in Vilnius, military villages in Ukmerge, Pabrede and Marijampole. The return of the Pajuoste (Panevezys) and Zokniu (Siauliai) airports and military villages has begun. The inspection of 19 objects have been completed.

Stankevicus on Russian Military Withdrawal Demands

WS1901130393 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1612 GMT 18 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 166]

[Text] 18 January 1993—Special mission ambassador Ceslovas Stankevicus announced that Russia, in its negotiations with Lithuania, has changed its position. Russia refuses the two-country negotiated agreements, which raise new conditions and categorical demands for Lithuania, many of which do not conform to the norms and principles of international rights. Russia's representatives are openly threatening, says Ceslovas Stankevicius, that if Lithuania does not accept the new demands, Russia will not continue its international obligation to remove the occupying Russian army from Lithuania, and will break the international agreement on the deadline for the total withdrawal of the army, August 31, 1993.

Ceslovas Stankevicius led the Republic of Lithuania state delegation on negotiations with Russia since 1991. There has been a motion in the Seym to change the delegation's leader and its members.

The chief leaders of the delegation on negotiations with Russia and the Foreign Affairs Ministry have also stated that Russia has halted the talks until the delegation and its regulations change.

It can be confirmed, says Ceslovas Stankevicius in his declaration, that Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry, utilizing the change in Lithuania's government, is trying to make Lithuania accept the discussed demands, and its already trying to put into action the policies which Minister Andrey Kozyrev declared in Stockholm last year on December 14.

The current Lithuanian delegation, it is emphasized in the declaration, has firmly decided that Lithuania can not accept the illegal and categorical Russian demands and pre-conditions. The negotiations must be led by the same Republic of Lithuania basic rules, rooted by the nation's will, Lithuania's sovereignty rights, and the norms and principles of international rights. Only in this fashion will results to regulate Lithuania's and Russia's relations be achieved.

UN Official on Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD1901165493 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 0000 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] In his meeting with the Lithuanian prime minister, Bronislovas Lubys, the coordinator of the United Nations mission in Lithuania, Mr. (Jurgen Lisner), said that the

Russian Army had been withdrawn from Lithuanian territory in accordance with the agreed schedule.

Mr. (Jurgen Lisner) promised that the United Nations Organization would further help Lithuania carry out various technical programs and integrate into the activities of that international organization. The coordinator of the United Nations mission also noted that Lithuania might receive technical military assistance from the United Nations and participate in its actions (?of) settlements of international conflicts.

Gylys Says Russian Army Withdrawal Talks 'Not Easy'

WS2101130493 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1439 GMT 20 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 168]

[Text] 20 January 1993—Yesterday at a press conference at the Seimas palace, Minister of Foreign Affairs Povilas Gylys said he would not dare to assert that Russia was exerting direct pressure on Lithuania. He drew this conclusion on examining the documents and correspondence of the negotiations. He admitted that the talks were not easy. Russia is sticking to its interests in Lithuania. One of the most contentious subjects is social guarantees for Russian servicemen remaining in Lithuania. In the ministers opinion, this is a delicate problem. Overstepping the limits of this issue, a question may arise whether the presence of the Russian Army is not being legalized. Russia, as usual, keeps raising the issue of national minorities in a rather conciliatory manner, according to the Lithuanian Foreign Minister. Lithuania insists that the issue of the damage done to Lithuania should be discussed in the first order.

The Minister also said that he had been surprised by the statement of the Head of the Lithuanian negotiating team that Russia's negotiating principles were radically changed. Mr. Povilas Gylys regretted that the statement had been made public before the formulation of the view on this issue by the Foreign Affairs Committee and Ministry.

The Lithuanian foreign minister also disagreed with the assertion of Vytautas Landsbergis that Russia demands a change in the Lithuanian negotiating team, thus interfering with the interior affairs of another state. Mr. Povilas Gylys noted that the documents say that Russia is waiting until the composition of the Lithuanian delegation is changed.

The Foreign Minister confirmed that the names of the members of the Lithuanian delegation as well as that of the Lithuanian Ambassador to Russia will be made public at short notice. In response to the question regarding claims to the former negotiating team, the Minister said the delegation had been sufficiently firm yet it had not been flexible enough.

Also taking part at the press conference, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Parliamentary Committee Kazys Bobelis seconded the Minister's views expressing his hope that in the future President, Foreign Affairs committee and Ministry will distribute among themselves the spheres of competence in the state foreign policy.

Today the Seimas Committee for Foreign Affairs has held a closed sitting with the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Povilas Gylys, Head of the Lithuanian delegation for talks with Russia Ceslovas Stankevicius and other members of the delegation.

Official Says Russians Pull Out 61 of Total 288 Units

OW2101082993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0012 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 61 out of the 288 Russian units which were stationed in Lithuania by the beginning of the troops withdrawal have already left the territory of the republic. Colonel Stasys Knezyz, who has been authorized by the Lithuanian government to monitor the progress of withdrawal of the Russian troops from the republic, said in an interview for the Lithuanian TV, that 15,000 out of 35,000 troops are still staying in Lithuania.

In his words, in December the Russian Army applied for about 1,000 railroad cars for the troops withdrawal, while only 160 cars were actually provided. Colonel Knezyz, however, is not inclined to regard this fact as an indication of slowdown of the rate of troops withdrawal. He would rather attribute it to the winter conditions of the troops relocations.

In the meantime, the Lithuanian government official expressed concern that contrary to the withdrawal timetable, which was signed in Moscow in September last year, the pullout of some of the troops has not been initiated.

Landsbergis Press Conference on Russian Ministry Stance

WS2001130693 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1439 GMT 19 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 167]

[Text] 19 January 1993—At his yesterday's press conference, the leader of the Opposition Vytautas Landsbergis declared that the Constitution seems to be generally ignored, therefore the Opposition endeavours to defend it. However, its constant counsel not to rush things are denounced by the parliamentary majority as destruction, whereas the Opposition endeavours that there should be time enough to deliberate every decision, the Seimas Opposition leader said.

Vytautas Landsbergis emphasized that constructive work in the Seimas is hampered by the arrogance of its Acting Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas and the insistence on unrestricted length of the parliamentary proceedings. He said he could only sympathize with the Seimas majority's concern for the lack of time to carry out all its undertakings well in advance of the February 14 presidential election.

However, the Opposition leader stressed, this problem has been created by the present parliamentary majority through its endeavour to hold the presidential election as early as possible, whereas it ought to have been held in March or early April, then all the work could have been done more seriously and substantially without undue precipitation.

Journalists were also informed about Vytautas Landsbergis' statement on the Russian Foreign ministry's neo-imperialistic stance with regard to Lithuania, "reminiscent of the 1939-1940 or the refusal of the Soviet leadership to hold any talks with Lithuania at the end of 1990, when preparing another armed aggression against Lithuania through the use of the occupation military force, the KGB and the mislead local Russians", the statement says.

'Centras' Movement Condemns Statement by Russian President

OW2101225193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1756 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Russia's claims to Latvia constitute interference in the affairs of a sovereign state both in form and in content," the council of the Lithuanian "Centras" movement declared commenting on the recent statement in regards to Latvia made by the Russian President's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov.

In its statement circulated on Thursday [21 January], the "Centras" council notes that "upholding of the rights of the Latvian citizens is, first and foremost, the issue of the interrelation of the state and its power agencies with its own citizens. The problems of citizenship of the residents can only be resolved through the talks and agreements of the states concerned".

As is known, on January 14, Mr Kostikov made a statement in which he conveyed Boris Yeltsin's concern over "demonstrative" violation of the rights of national minorities in Latvia.

The council of the "Centras" movement called on all the political parties and organizations in Lithuania to express their position in regards to Russia's pressure on Latvia. The statement also contains an appeal to the Russia democratic forces "to raise the voice of protest against the harmful trends in the state of Russia and give due evaluation to its pressure on the Baltic countries".

Transportation Agreement Signed With Russia

WS1901131993 Tallinn BNS in English 1853 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Vilnius, 15 January 1993, BNS—A Lithuanian Railway Ministry official, Henrikas Jackevicius, said on Friday [15 January] that officials from the transport ministries of Lithuania and Russia at this week's working meeting in Moscow drafted agreements on air, sea, and river transportation between the two countries.

He said the delegations have also reached an agreement on the cancellation of the mutual debts of Lithuanian and Russian transport services, and decided to sign an agreement on tariffs for the servicing of each other's aircraft and vessels.

The work on a motor transport agreement is still unfinished, Jackevicius said, since there remain disagreements concerning payments for Russian vehicles' transit through Lithuanian territory on their way to Russia's Kaliningrad Region. These problems, however, will hopefully be solved by the Lithuanian and Russian Prime Ministers at their meeting scheduled to take place in Kaliningrad at the end of the month, Jackevicius sais.

Landsbergis on Russian Attitude Toward Vilnius

OW1801124593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1147 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vytautas Landsbergis, the leader of the opposition in the Lithuanian parliament, believes that the Russian Foreign Ministry has occupied "pro-empire positions" with respect to Lithuania.

In a statement distributed on Monday [18 January], Landsbergis drew a parallel between "the interval in the negotiations with Lithuania until Lithuania does not change the composition of the state delegation and the basic principles of the negotiations" announced by Russia during the events of 1939-1940, and between "the refusal of the Soviet Union to undertake any negotiations in 1990, when a plan of an armed assault of Lithuania was being developed."

Landsbergis' statement points out that international organizations, such as the U.N. and the CSCE, should clear "what Russia's intention to suspend the withdrawal of its army and to involve itself in such an internal Lithuanian affair as the formation of the state delegation's composition means." This should be assessed as "a dual violation of the rights of a sovereign state," Landsbergis believes.

Gylys Interviewed on Future of Foreign Policy

LD1901195093 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys by station announcer—live]

[Text] [Announcer] A briefing was held today in the Lithuanian Seimas. Explanations on Lithuanian foreign policy were made by Minister of Foreign Affairs Povilas Gylys.

A statement by Ceslovas Stankevicius, head of the delegation to Russia, and yesterday's statement by the opposition leader, Vytautas Landsbergis, made in rather sharp tones, have disturbed a substantial part of society, moreover, Russian society residing in Lithuania. Tell us, how do you regard the tone of these statements?

[Gylys] I am for a diplomacy in diplomacy. I regard it in this sense, that politicians should abstain from utterances which may aggravate talks or relations among states. I understand that the process of the creation of new states is taking place and [passage indistinct]. Hence some our mistakes [words indistinct] our foreign policy. But I think that this will pass.

[Announcer] A meeting of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Lithuanian Seimas took place yesteday. Was this issue discussed?

[Gylys] We mainly discussed the budget, but also dwelt on this issue. We reached the unanimous conclusion that we should not make any statements without being acquainted with the relevant documents.

[Announcer] How does [words indistinct] of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? As is known, previously it was oriented more toward the West than to the East [passage indistinct].

[Gylys] Maybe, because we have been regarding our relations with the East as going without saying. I have in mind economic and other relations. But we did not have relations with the West. Because of this, [words indistinct] unbalanced. But in the process, as I already said, in the creation of new states, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Belarus and so on, we must draw conclusions, they are interested in becoming states and having diplomatic relations. We are interested in this, too. I noticed this in meetings with [words indistinct] of these states. This is comforting.

[Announcer] [Words indistinct] changes. Will there be changes in the composition of the delegation?

[Gylys] They will take place. But we think that we have no right to lose information and habits which have been amassed by the previous delegation. Thus experts in many fields will remain in the delegation. [passage indistinct]

We are in the process of creation, the committee is just now beginning its work. I as minister have also started just now. I hope, and after yesterday's meeting I am optimistic that it will be so [passage indistinct] but must look toward the future, they must be constructive [passage indistinct] an important strategic neighbor, a large state with a great economic and military potential, playing a great part in [words indistinct] politics. I understand [words indistinct] from the past, this must be taken into account. But it is my view that we must look toward the future, and what has been negative in the past must not hamper our good relations in the future.

I think that the world order is changing [passage indistinct] we must restore statehood and [words indistinct]. We must not take hasty decisions. This is a complex decision, the reorganization of the Ministry, the [word indistinct] of the committee [passage indistinct]

[Announcer] When do you intend to appoint a new ambassador to Russia?

[Gylys] Maybe this week or the beginning of next [passage indistinct].